



CHANGE OF COMMAND
USS SILVERSIDES
(SSN 679)

7 August 1986

THE NAVY HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep.
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.



Lord God, our power evermore,
whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
dive with our men beneath the sea;
traverse the depths protectively;
O hear us when we pray, and keep
them safe from peril in the deep.

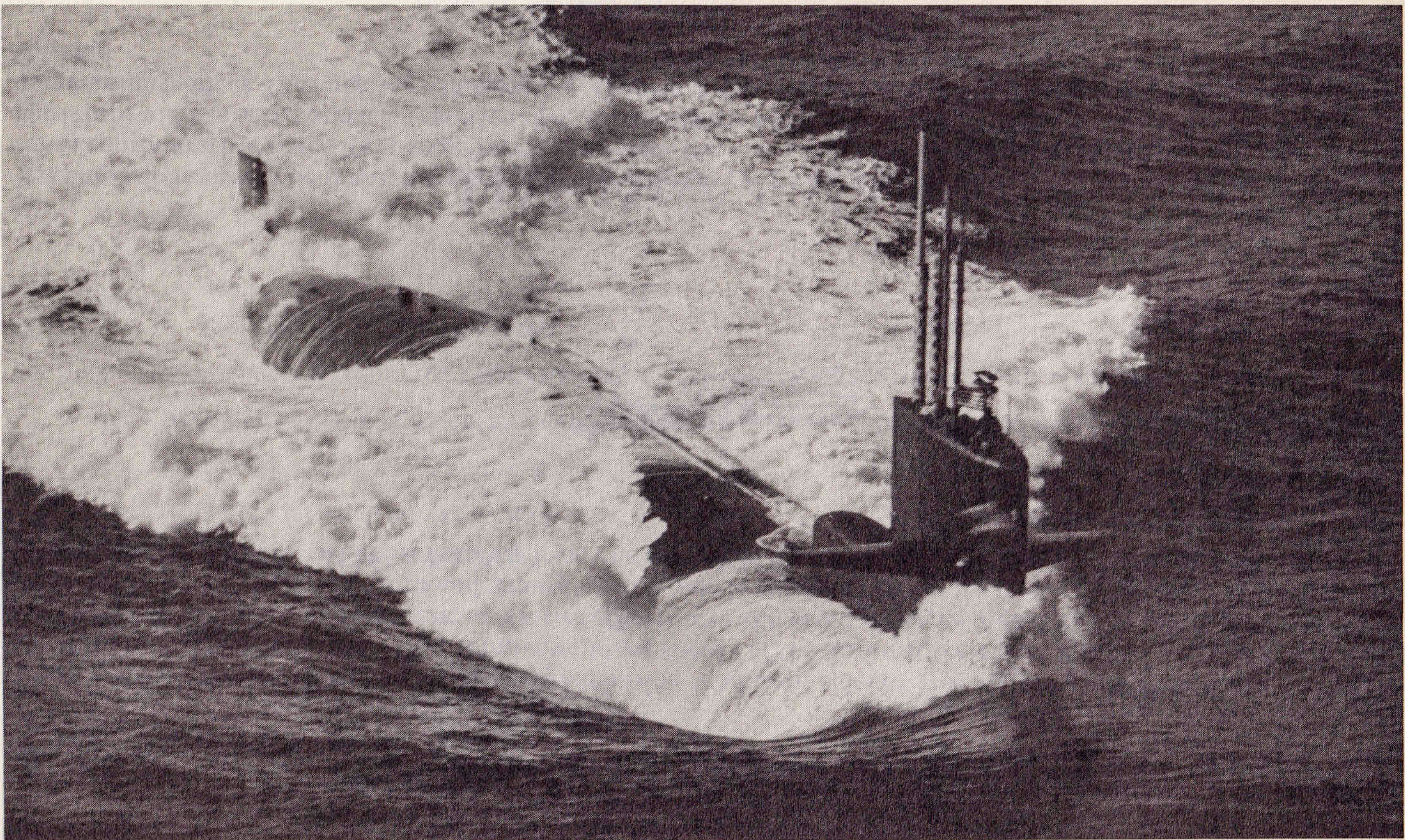
AMEN

CHANGE OF COMMAND ABOARD A NAVY SHIP

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition, solemn and colorful, which formally restates to subordinate commanders and ship's company the continuity of the authority of command. The ceremony is an event conducted by, and in the main interest of, the two officers involved and represents the final act in command of the officer being relieved. The change of command aboard a naval ship is nearly unique in the world today: it is a total transfer of responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another.



The ship's commission pennant, a replica of which appears above, symbolizes the order to active service. As such, it is flown continuously by each Navy ship, from the moment she is commissioned until that final moment, years later, when she is retired from active service. Traditionally the commission pennant is replaced with a new one at each change of the commanding officer. The outgoing commanding officer is then presented with the pennant flown during his command of the ship.



USS SILVERSIDES (SSN 679)

Launched on 4 June 1971 at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, Connecticut, USS SILVERSIDES became the 100th ship to be commissioned in the Navy's nuclear powered underseas fleet on 5 May 1972. The present SILVERSIDES, a STURGEON-class attack vessel, bears little resemblance, beyond her name, to her diesel ancestor of World War II. With a submerged displacement of 4,900 tons and capability of operating in excess of twenty knots and at depths greater than 400 feet, today's SILVERSIDES outclasses her famous namesake in all respects.

From a tactical point of view, SILVERSIDES' capabilities are virtually unlimited. Powered by a pressurized water nuclear reactor and able to regenerate her own atmosphere, SILVERSIDES can deploy for extended periods underwater, the duration of her operations being limited only by the space available for food stores. Ranking with the quietest of all nuclear submarines, SILVERSIDES is particularly well suited to the performance of the stealthy missions for which she is supported by the most sophisticated sensory systems ever installed in a submarine. Her complex sonar and electronic suites permit detection and classification of a wide spectrum of emissions to provide early warning of enemy activity or to aid in the safe navigation of the ship. SILVERSIDES is equipped with a versatile weapons system designed to support the most advanced weapons in our undersea arsenal.

Following commissioning SILVERSIDES operated as a unit of Submarine Squadron FOUR in Charleston, South Carolina. In November 1975 SILVERSIDES changed homeports to Norfolk, Virginia and in January 1977 began her first overhaul at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, completing this overhaul in December 1977. SILVERSIDES then operated as a unit of Submarine Squadron SIX in Norfolk, Virginia. Between 1978 and 1984 the ship participated in two extended Atlantic deployments, two Mediterranean deployments, a trip to the Arctic (including a visit to the North Pole), and served as a member of the Grenada expeditionary forces. SILVERSIDES again changed homeport in November 1984, entering Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington for her second major overhaul and the first refueling of her reactor. SILVERSIDES is bound again for Norfolk and Submarine Squadron SIX to resume at-sea operations in support of national security requirements.

PROGRAM

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

Commander Edward A. Olander, CHC, USN

REMARKS

Rear Admiral Wayne E. Rickman, United States Navy
Commander Submarine Group NINE

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

Commander William A. Wood, United States Navy
Commanding Officer, USS SILVERSIDES

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

Commander James W. Suhr, United States Navy

BENEDICTION

Commander Edward A. Olander, CHC, USN

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY



**REAR ADMIRAL
WAYNE E. RICKMAN
United States Navy**

Rear Admiral Wayne E. Rickman was born 24 October 1937 in Joplin, Missouri, and graduated from Neosho High School in 1955. Upon graduation from the Naval Academy in 1959, his initial two tours were in destroyers: USS WALLACE L. LIND (DD-703) and the commissioning crew of USS BIDDLE (DDG-5). Following a 3 month period at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, he was selected for the expanding Nuclear Power Program and chose to enter the submarine force in 1963.

He qualified in submarines in USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622) (GOLD) (4 patrols), and served as Engineer Officer in USS PLUNGER (SSN 595). Following an assignment at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where Rear Admiral Rickman earned a Masters Degree in Computer Management, he served as Executive Officer, USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) during a POSEIDON conversion refueling overhaul. In 1974, Rear Admiral Rickman took command of the nuclear ballistic missile submarine USS HENRY CLAY (SSBN 625) for one Pacific patrol and another refueling POSEIDON conversion overhaul. After serving as Deputy Commander for Training in Submarine Squadron FOUR, he commanded and commissioned USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727), the second TRIDENT submarine. From 1983-1985, he served as the Special Assistant to the Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Department of Energy, before assuming command of Submarine Group NINE in September 1985.

Rear Admiral Rickman has been awarded a Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), and the Navy Commendation Medal. He has also received the Navy Expeditionary Medal with one star, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

Rear Admiral Rickman is married to the former Katherine Sharon Smith of Hampton, South Carolina. They have two children, Eric and Dana, and presently reside at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Washington.



**COMMANDER
WILLIAM A. WOOD
United States Navy**

Commander William A. WOOD was born in Jacksonville, Florida, the son of the late Commander Harry WOOD and Margaret R. WOOD of Olney, Illinois. He attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1966.

After completing initial submarine and nuclear power training, Commander WOOD reported to USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622) in Charleston, South Carolina. He served in various engineering billets and as Communications Officer during a refueling overhaul, demonstration and shakedown operations, an interfleet transfer, and four Polaris deterrent patrols in the Pacific. From November 1971 to September 1974, Commander WOOD served as Engineer Officer in USS DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN 626) (GOLD), completing six Polaris deterrent patrols.

From 1974 to 1976, Commander WOOD was assigned as an instructor at the NROTC Unit, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. While at Michigan, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree. In 1977, Commander WOOD reported to USS PLUNGER (SSN 595), in San Diego, California. He served as Executive Officer during three deployments to the Mid and Western Pacific. His next assignment was to the Staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, where he served as Executive Officer of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board.

In August 1982, Commander WOOD assumed command of USS SILVERSIDES (SSN 679) in Norfolk, Virginia. During his command tour, the ship completed two extended overseas deployments; was a member of the Operation URGENT FURY task force at Grenada; completed an interfleet transfer from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and underwent a major refueling overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington.

Commander WOOD is entitled to wear the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Navy Sea Service Ribbon with three Bronze Stars.

Commander WOOD is married to the former Catherine Alice Bunker of Novato, California. They and their daughter, Susannah, will reside in Pensacola, Florida upon Commander WOOD's assumption of new duties on the staff of the Chief of Naval Education and Training.



**COMMANDER
JAMES W. SUHR
United States Navy**

Commander SUHR graduated from Ferndale High School in northwest Washington state and reported to the United States Naval Academy in June 1966. Following graduation and commissioning in June 1970, he attended nuclear power and submarine training until December 1971.

His first assignment was in USS POLLACK (SSN 603) in overhaul at Charleston, South Carolina. He spent six weeks in late 1974 underway in USS TUNNY (SSN 672) during which he completed submarine qualification. Following completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, Commander SUHR then served as Engineer Officer in USS NARWHAL (SSN 671) in New London, Connecticut from September 1975 to May 1978. He then served as Training Officer of the S1C prototype in Windsor, Connecticut. He served as Executive Officer of USS STURGEON (SSN 637) from March 1981 to September 1983, and was then assigned to the staff of the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program in Washington, D.C. from October 1983 to December 1985.

Commander SUHR has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with gold stars in lieu of second, third, and fourth awards. He is also authorized to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon (three awards), the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (three awards).

Commander SUHR is married to the former Carol Ann Collum of Southampton, New York. They reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their four children, James, Douglas, Lisa, and Steven.

USS SILVERSIDES (SSN 679) OFFICERS

CDR WILLIAM A. WOOD
 LCDR E. KENNON WILSON, JR., USN
 LCDR BRIAN J. WEGNER
 LT STEPHEN R. PRICE
 LT LEONARD A. ZINGARELLI
 LT MARSHALL J. ANDERSON
 LT MARC STAMMER
 LT WILLIAM J. FLYNN
 LT JOEL A. MILLER
 LTJG SCOTT D. ESTEY
 LTJG VERNON R. KUBIAK
 LTJG PAUL A. RACICOT
 LTJG DOUGLAS L. WAKELAND
 LTJG THOMAS R. MESSEGEY
 LTJG WILLIAM R. N. HOWELL
 LTJG JON R. REES
 ENS EDWARD P. FRANCIS

COMMANDING OFFICER
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 ENGINEER OFFICER
 NAVIGATOR
 COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER
 ASSISTANT WEAPONS OFFICER
 COMMUNICATOR
 PNEO CANDIDATE
 PNEO CANDIDATE
 SONAR OFFICER
 DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT
 CHEMISTRY AND RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL ASSISTANT
 MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT
 ELECTRICAL OFFICER
 REACTOR CONTROL ASSISTANT
 ASSISTANT WEAPONS OFFICER
 SUPPLY OFFICER

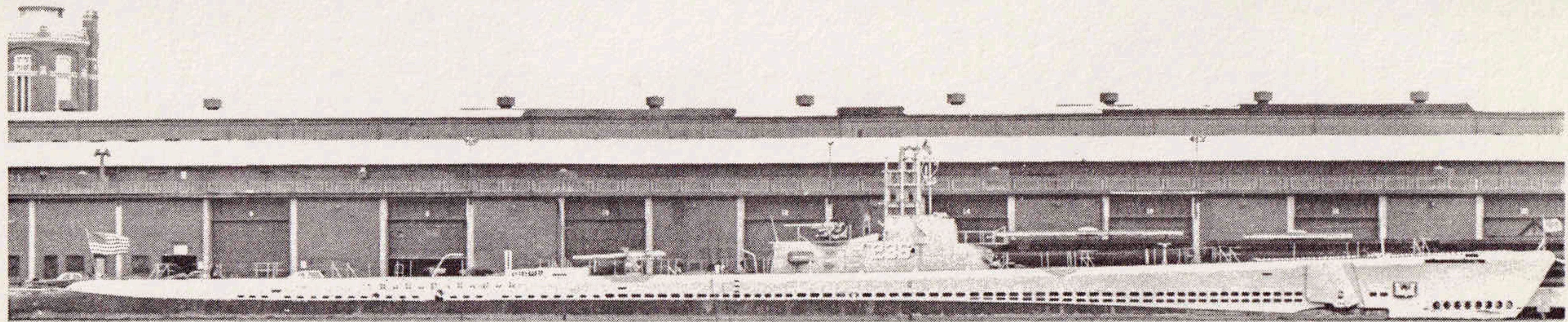
CHIEF AND LEADING PETTY OFFICERS

ICCS(SS) JOHN F. HILDITCH
 MMCS(SS) DAVID R. BATES
 MMCS(SS) MONROE O. WILSON
 HMC(SS) JESSE J. PEDRERO
 ICC(SS) DECK F. HARTZELL
 ETC(SS) GERALD R. BARKER
 STSC(SS) RICKY F. COOPER
 EMC(SS) RONALD W. KIMBERLING
 FTGC(SS) MIKE D. STACKHOUSE
 EMC(SS) WILLIAM F. LOWMON
 MMC(SS) HENRY J. KRZYKOWSKI

CHIEF OF THE BOAT
 ENLISTED ENGINEERING ASSIST
 ENLISTED ENGINEERING ASSIST
 MEDICAL DEPARTMENT REP
 IC DIVISION
 RC DIVISION
 ST DIVISION
 E DIVISION
 FT DIVISION
 3M COORDINATOR
 A DIVISION

TMC(SS) JOSEPH C. MOORE
 MMC(SS) JOHN E. MOSHOLDER
 QMC(SS) RONALD M. LUCAS
 YNC(SS) ROBERT L. HICKMAN
 ETC(SS) GARY P. MULLINS
 RMC(SS) HOWARD A. AHOLA
 MMC(SS) MICHAEL L. ALLEN
 MS1(SS) STEPHEN J. URBAN
 SK1(SS) GARY W. HAMMONDS
 ET2(SS) JOHNNY A. WELLS

TM DIVISION
 M DIVISION
 QM DIVISION
 YN DIVISION
 COMMAND CAREER COUNSELOR
 RM DIVISION
 A DIVISION
 MS DIVISION
 SK DIVISION
 ET DIVISION



USS SILVERSIDES (SS 236)

The present USS SILVERSIDES (SSN 679) is the second submarine in the United States Navy to carry the name. The first SILVERSIDES (SS 236) was built at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and was commissioned on December 15, 1941. Armed with two deck guns and ten torpedo tubes (six forward and four aft), she plunged into a war torn Pacific Ocean and performed in a manner almost unparalleled in the annals of Naval history. With Commander Creed BURLINGAME, and later Commander John S. COYE, at her helm she engaged in fourteen highly successful war patrols, receiving a Presidential Unit Citation and twelve battle stars for her outstanding performance. She recorded twenty-four Japanese merchantmen, four Japanese warships and one German warship sunk, as well as fifteen Japanese ships damaged, totaling almost a quarter million tons of enemy shipping. During one patrol, SILVERSIDES was the scene of the first appendectomy to be performed aboard a submerged submarine. Following World War II, SILVERSIDES served for many years as a reserve training submarine in Chicago, Illinois. Finally, in 1969, the famous old boat was struck from the Naval Register to make way for her new namesake. She has since been opened to the public in Chicago, Illinois as a museum and memorial dedicated to the fifty-two submarines lost during World War II.

The PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE and the BURDEN OF COMMAND

By Joseph Conrad

"Only a seaman realizes to what great extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A ship at sea is a different world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility, and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire, and morale of the ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship!

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless Command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders. It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world.....CAPTAIN."