

COMMISSIONING OF THE
NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE

USS Richard B. Russell

SSN-687

AUGUST 16, 1975

Newport News Shipbuilding





Commissioning of a Navy Ship

The commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a member of the operating forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the commissioning pennant, USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687) becomes an active member of the fleet. The Commanding Officer, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any commitment required by our nation in peace or war.

The commissioning pennant is the historic symbol of a man of war. It is believed to date from the 17th century when the Dutch Admiral Maarten Van Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to symbolize his having swept the British from the sea at Dungeness. The following year British Admiral William Blake hoisted a horse whip to his masthead, indicating his intention to chastise the Dutch. The victorious British thus set a precedent of a long narrow commissioning pennant, symbolizing the original horse whip as the distinctive mark of a ship of war.



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SUBMARINE

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A Giant Of The Senate



The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN687) is named for the late Senator from Georgia, Senator Richard Brevard Russell. On arrival in the Senate in 1933 he was appointed to the Naval Affairs Committee (later to become the Armed Services Committee) and the Appropriations Committee. He remained on these two important committees for his entire thirty-eight year Senate career, serving as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1951-53 and from 1955-1969 and as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations from 1969 until his death, January 12, 1971. He also served on the Joint Senate House Committee on Atomic Energy from 1945 to 1971 and was a leader in establishing the country's nuclear powered fleet.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, Senator Russell served the State of Georgia in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1920 to 1930, as Governor of Georgia from 1930 to 1932 and as United States Senator from 1933 to 1971. He was the only Senator in history to spend more than half his life, 38 of his 73 years, in the United States Senate.

His ability and integrity won him wide acclaim from his fellow Senators, writers, and commentators. He served as Chairman of the Joint Senate Committees that investigated the dismissal of General MacArthur in 1951, on the Warren Commission in 1963-1964 and as President pro tempore of

the Senate from 1969-1971. He was called the most influential man in the inner circles of the Senate, the Senator's Senator, an honorable man.

As the Senate leader in military affairs, Senator Russell was a champion of America's servicemen. During each of his last eight years as Committee Chairman he was the principal advocate and floor manager of bills which provided pay raises for members of the Armed Forces. Additionally, he declared, "We must replace our aging ships and equip modern ships with reliable missiles," and fought to provide these new ships and advanced, reliable weapons.

Senator John Stennis of Mississippi summed up this matchless career of service to our country with the word "Patriot." He said, "I confidently believe that this spirit of patriotism that so marked Senator Russell will be imparted to the men who will man the ship, and to other Americans—that they will be imbued with the same type of courage that enabled him to face odds unflinchingly; the same type of almost instinctive, yet reasoned, vision that enabled him unerringly to choose the right course; the same type of unselfish devotion to duty that America needs in this hour."



Senator Russell being greeted by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz . . .



. . . aboard the USS OBSERVATION ISLAND . . .



. . . inspecting crewmen of an attack aircraft carrier.



The photo above uniquely captures the Authenticator of the keel and the ship's Sponsor moments after the ship was launched at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Authenticator

Mrs. Ina Russell Stacy

Ina Russell grew up with her 12 brothers and sisters at the Russell family home in Winder, Georgia. She attended the Lucy Cobb Institute in Athens, Georgia. After a brief career as a teacher in Georgia, she went to Washington as a "War Worker" in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

While working in Washington, Miss Russell entered law school at the American University and earned an LL.B. degree there in 1933, thus giving her father, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the opportunity to admit his own daughter to practice before his court.

In 1938, she married Jean K. Stacy, an Army Reserve officer. In the same year she won a position as an attorney with the Veterans Administration and stayed with that agency for almost two decades. After the death of Col. Stacy in 1955, Senator Russell asked his sister to return to Winder to manage the family estate. Mrs. Stacy acted as hostess for Senator Russell in Georgia for the remaining years of his life.

Mrs. Stacy and Senator Russell were always very close, from childhood in Georgia through the many years both were working in Washington.

Sponsor

Mrs. Elizabeth Talmadge

Mrs. Elizabeth Shingler Talmadge, a native of Ashburn, Georgia, met Herman Talmadge when she accompanied a friend on a visit to the Governor's office during his father's governorship. She and Senator Talmadge were married in December 1941 while she was a student at the University of Georgia, and he a young Naval officer.

Seven years later, Herman Talmadge became Governor and Mrs. Talmadge, at 24, became the youngest First Lady in the history of the state.

Mrs. Talmadge has been dividing her time between their homes in Washington, D. C., and Lovejoy, Georgia, for the past 18 years.

In 1959, Mrs. Talmadge was named Atlanta's Woman of the Year in Business in recognition of her operation of the thriving Talmadge Ham business at Lovejoy, which she organized in 1952 when she bought 200 hams on credit from a local packing house.

In addition to her accomplishments as a businesswoman, Mrs. Talmadge devotes much of her time to humanitarian endeavors. She serves on the Board of Governors of Woodward Academy at College Park, Georgia, and she has been active in the Georgia Cancer Society and the Heart Association.



George Busbee Governor of Georgia

George Dekle Busbee is a native of Vienna, Georgia. His grandfather, George Washington Busbee, an attorney, born in the early nineteenth century, was the first Busbee to settle in the Vienna area. Busbee's father, Perry Green Busbee, was a farmer, housebuilder and mule trader. His mother, Nell Dekle Busbee, was a descendent of the German Salzburger who settled much of South Georgia.

Busbee attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Duke University and the University of Georgia. Following service in the United States Navy, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in business in 1949.

The same year he married Mary Elizabeth Talbot of Ruston, Louisiana, a medical technologist at Athens General Hospital. He received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1952.

Busbee opened a law office in Albany, Georgia, where he has practiced law since 1952. He won a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1956 at the age of 29. He served nine terms, and was elected Governor in 1974.

From 1963 to 1965, he served as the Assistant Administration Floor Leader, and as Administration Floor Leader in 1966. In 1967, he served as the first Majority Leader of the House. He was re-elected to that position continuously for three terms without opposition. In 1974, he was voted one of the most effective members of the House.

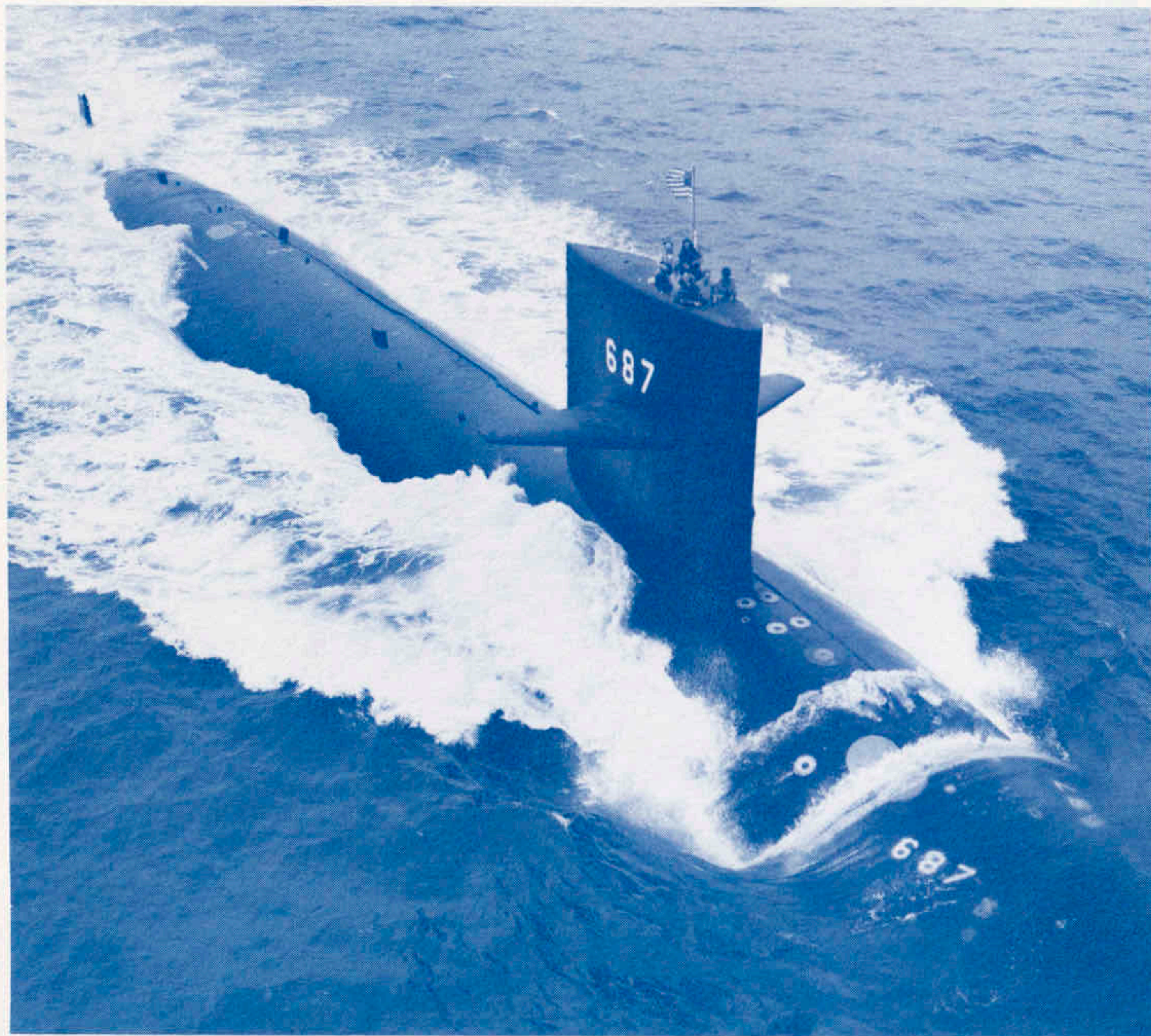
The Busbee have two sons, Buz and Jeff, and two daughters, Beth and Jan.



NEWPORT NEWS

NEWPORT NEWS

COLUMBIAN PHOTOGRAPHS



Keel Laid: 19 October 1971
Launched: 12 January 1974
First Sea Trial: 15 June 1975
Commissioned: 16 August 1975
Length: 300 feet
Maximum Depth: In excess of 400 feet
Maximum Speed: In excess of 20 knots
Displacement: 4,290 tons
Ship Complement: 120 officers and men
Number of Torpedo Tubes: 4

The Commanding Officer Commander John C. Brons

Commander John C. Brons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Brons of Chicago, Illinois, was born on September 29, 1937. He attended Loyola Academy and was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1959.

Following graduation he reported to the USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD 729) and served as Communications Officer and Navigator. In October 1960, he was ordered to the Pre-commissioning Unit of the USS KING (DLG10) and again filled the Communications billet.

Upon completion of submarine school and nuclear power training in October 1963, he reported to the Pre-commissioning crew of the USS DACE (SSN607) where he served as Main Propulsion Assistant and Supply Officer. When qualified as Engineer in May, 1965, he joined the Pre-commissioning Unit of the USS STURGEON (SSN637). In March, 1968, he was assigned as Executive Officer, Naval Power Training Unit, West Milton, New York. Following his tour at the prototype, he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he received a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in June, 1971. He then reported to the USS JACK (SSN605) for duty as Executive Officer. In January, 1974, he assumed command of the Pre-commissioning Unit of the RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN687).

Commander Brons is married to the former Ruth Lamy of Winnetka, Illinois. They have three children and reside in Ledyard, Connecticut.



COMMISSIONING

INVOCATION

**Captain Donald L. Kirkbride, CHC USN
Fifth Naval District Chaplain**

WELCOME

**Commander John C. Brons, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer**

BUILDER'S REMARKS

**Mr. John P. Diesel
President and Chief Executive Officer
Newport News Shipbuilding**

REMARKS AND READING OF THE COMMISSIONING DIRECTIVE

**Vice Admiral Joe Williams, Jr., USN
Commander Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet**

COMMANDING OFFICER'S ORDERS

Commander John C. Brons, USN

NG PROGRAM

COMMISSIONING

SETTING THE FIRST WATCH

Lieutenant Commander Harry P. Salmon, Jr., USN
Executive Officer

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REMARKS

HONORS

REMARKS

The Honorable Sam Nunn
United States Senator, Georgia

ADDRESS

The Honorable George Busbee
Governor of Georgia

BAND SELECTIONS

Commander-In-Chief
U. S. Atlantic Fleet

Commissioned Officers



Executive Officer
LCDR H. P. Salmon, Jr.



Navigator
LCDR J. W. Kenty



Supply Officer
LT M. J. Walters III



Engineer Officer
LCDR G. W. Jackson



Assistant Engineer
LT J. R. Frysinger



Weapons Officer
LT D. C. Ross



Damage Control Assistant
LT(jg) W. H. O'Brien



Reactor Controls Officer
LT(jg) R. N. Pohtos



Main Propulsion Assistant
LT J. B. Walker



Communicator
LT(jg) G. A. Herbert, Jr.



Electrical Officer
ENS D. E. Huelle

Chief Petty Officers



ICCS (SS) R. J. Ryland
Chief of the Boat



ETCS (SS) C. C. Griffin, Jr.
Electronics Division



TMCS (SS) T. G. Hargis
Torpedo Division



STCS (SS) G. H. Jones
Sonar Division



EMCS (SS) J. B. Landis
Engineering Leading
Petty Officer



EMC (SS) W. J. McKendry
Electrical Division



MMC (SS) W. L. Tomberlin
Machinery Division



SKC (SS) S. S. Galvante
Storekeeper Division



MMC (SS) C. V. Godfrey
Auxiliary Division



TMC (SS) J. R. Brewington
Torpedo Division



MMC (SS) D. R. Lewis
Machinery Division



MMC (SS) J. D. Tyers, Jr.
Auxiliary Division



MSC (SS) T. A. Brannan
Food Service Division

Crew of the USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL



FIRE CONTROL DIVISION: FTG1 (SS) D. J. Cianci, FTG1 (SS) D. Stoddard, FTG2 W. A. Thomas, DS1 (SS) W. C. Davidson, NOT PICTURED: FTG1 (SS) W. J. Alexander.



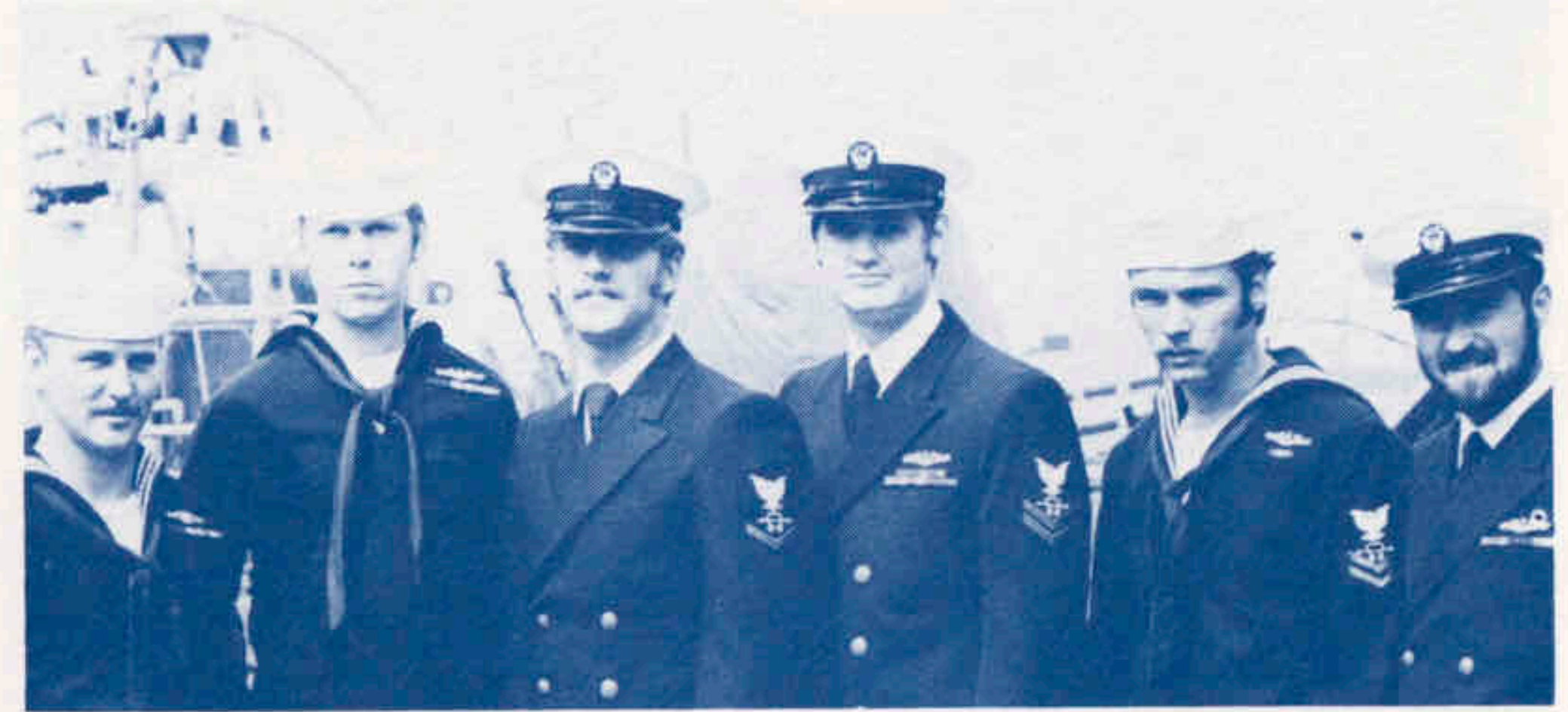
QUARTERMASTER DIVISION: QM1 J. R. Seeley, QM2 (SS) R. E. Saenz QM1 (SS) P. A. Henry, QM3 G. M. O'Brien.



MACHINERY DIVISION BACK ROW: MM1 R. D. Shaffer, MM1 W. A. Scholtens, MM1 D. F. Johnson, MM1 S. V. Heard, MIDDLE ROW: MM1 (SS) T. W. Ford, MM1 R. E. Miller, MM2 (SS) D. E. Hovey, FRONT ROW: MM1 (SS) J. M. Quick, MM1 (SS) C. C. Byard, MM2 M. R. Dietzel, MM3 R. K. Keiffer, MM1 A. S. Fitch, III, MM1 W. M. Peterson, NOT SHOWN: MM2 G. S. Bal, MM2 M. L. Bimson, MM1 D. R. Dunn, MM3 F. D. Durgan, MM3 J. W. Hampton, MM1 (SS) T. H. Kehely, MM2 J. C. Molnar.



ELECTRONICS DIVISION: ETR3 G. J. Steinke, ETR3 (SS) F. A. Mott, ETN3 (SS) Mohaupt, ETN2 (SS) S. M. Newberg, ETR2 J. C. Barranco, ET1 (SS) B. R. Pearce, NOT PICTURED: ETN2 K. R. Banks.



SONAR DIVISION: ST1 (SS) R. F. Soloniewicz, ST1 (SS) D. P. Whittaker, STS3 J. P. Morgan, III, STS2 (SS) R. R. Arnold, STS2 (SS) G. R. Hiffner, Jr., ST1 (SS) W. B. Andre, NOT PICTURED: ST1 R. C. Lundin, STS2 (SS) P. Mehalco, Jr.



AUXILIARY DIVISION: MM2 (SS) R. M. Wells, Jr., MM1 (SS) P. G. Campbell, Jr., MM3 (SS) J. D. Kersh, MM1 (SS) L. V. Smith NOT PICTURED: MM1 (SS) A. P. Amposta, Jr., MM1 (SS) C. Q. Hicks, MMFN K. J. Sharpe, MM2 (SS) Voelkel, MM3 (SS) J. D. Gentzler.



TORPEDO DIVISION: TM2 (SS) R. E. Sodders, TM2 (SS) L. T. Suitor, TM2 (SS) J. D. Surginer, NOT PICTURED: TMSA S. V. Hartwig.



FOOD SERVICE DIVISION: MSSN J. F. Cardwell, SA R. B. Carroll, MS3 (SS) T. P. Austin, FA E. D. Temples, III, MS3 D. H. Loftis, MS3 (SS) G. Walker, III, MS3 (SS) B. A. Roy, NOT PICTURED: MS1 (SS) C. P. Robinson.



REACTOR CONTROL DIVISION BACK ROW: ETN3 (SS) M. A. Patty, Jr., ETN2 J. S. Lagiewski, ETR2 E. Seyfried, ET1 (SS) E. T. Naddy, ET1 (SS) A. H. Klemp, NOT PICTURED: ETR3 D. A. Durham, ET1 (SS) T. R. Isley, ETN2 (SS) J. F. May, ETN2 R. T. Wallerman.



ELECTRICAL DIVISION BACK ROW: EM1 (SS) J. O. Goodrich, EM2 D. J. Grantham, IC1 (SS) C. W. Kruger, EM2 B. S. Swan, EM2 D. A. Pate, FRONT ROW: IC1 D. H. Strege, IC1 (SS) R. A. Paez. NOT PICTURED: EM2 F. P. Bonnett, EM2 K. F. Fleishbein, IC2 (SS) M. E. Lavelle, EM3 E. W. McElroy, EM3 R. O. Parker, Jr. IC1 (SS) K. D. Thomas, EM1 (SS) H. B. Woodmansee, III.

COMBINATION



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
REPRESENTATIVE: HM1
R. L. Brown



YEOMAN DIVISION: YN3
J. J. Hranka, NOT PIC-
TURED: YN1 (SS) A. S.
Milne, Jr.



DECK DIVISION BACKROW: ST1 (SS) J. L.
Benson, SA E. D. Belch, FRONT ROW: STSSA
D. B. Caldwell, FA C. A. King, NOT PIC-
TURED: FA B. P. Martinson, FA J. A.
Warzynski.



STOREKEEPER DIVISION:
SK3 D. M. Clark



RADIO DIVISION: RM1 (SS) T. L. Mikkelsen, RM2 N. L. Shiver, RM1 (SS) P.
H. Sperling, RM1 (SS) T. J. Hurley.

USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL

SSN - 687

The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL is 300 feet long with a surface displacement of 4,290 tons and carries the latest anti-submarine warfare weapons systems.

The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL and her sister ships have an advanced hydrodynamic hull propelled by nuclear power. The extensive use of sound insulating materials and great care in noise reduction of all moving parts give these submarines an inherent silent quality and maximum performance of their advanced sonar system. They combine the endurance and environmental independence of nuclear power with deep submergence and speed. These capabilities, coupled with the latest in submarine weapons systems, make RUSSELL one of the Navy's most effective anti-submarine weapons.

USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL is the 37th and last ship of the Sturgeon Class.

Following commissioning RUSSELL will be homeported at Groton, Connecticut, as a unit of Submarine Development Group Two.

Ships of the Class

STURGEON (SSN 637)
WHALE (SSN 638)
TAUTOG (SSN 639)
GRAYLING (SSN 646)
POGY (SSN 647)
ASPRO (SSN 648)
SUNFISH (SSN 649)
PARGO (SSN 650)
QUEENFISH (SSN 651)
PUFFER (SSN 652)
RAY (SSN 653)
SAND LANCE (SSN 660)

LAPON (SSN 661)
GURNARD (SSN 662)
HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663)
SEA DEVIL (SSN 664)
GUITARRO (SSN 665)
HAWKBILL (SSN 666)
BERGALL (SSN 667)
SPADEFISH (SSN 668)
SEAHORSE (SSN 669)
FINBACK (SSN 670)
PINTADO (SSN 672)
FLYING FISH (SSN 673)

TREPANG (SSN 674)
BLUEFISH (SSN 675)
BILLFISH (SSN 676)
DRUM (SSN 677)
ARCHERFISH (SSN 678)
SILVERSIDES (SSN 679)
WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN 680)
BATFISH (SSN 681)
TUNNY (SSN 682)
PARCHE (SSN 683)
CAVALLA (SSN 684)
L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686)

RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN 687)
We saved the best 'til last.

The Ship's Emblem

Pictured on the front cover is the ship's emblem. The dominant characteristic is a shield of the stars and stripes symbolizing the great patriotism of Senator Russell and the primary mission of the ship—service to the country.

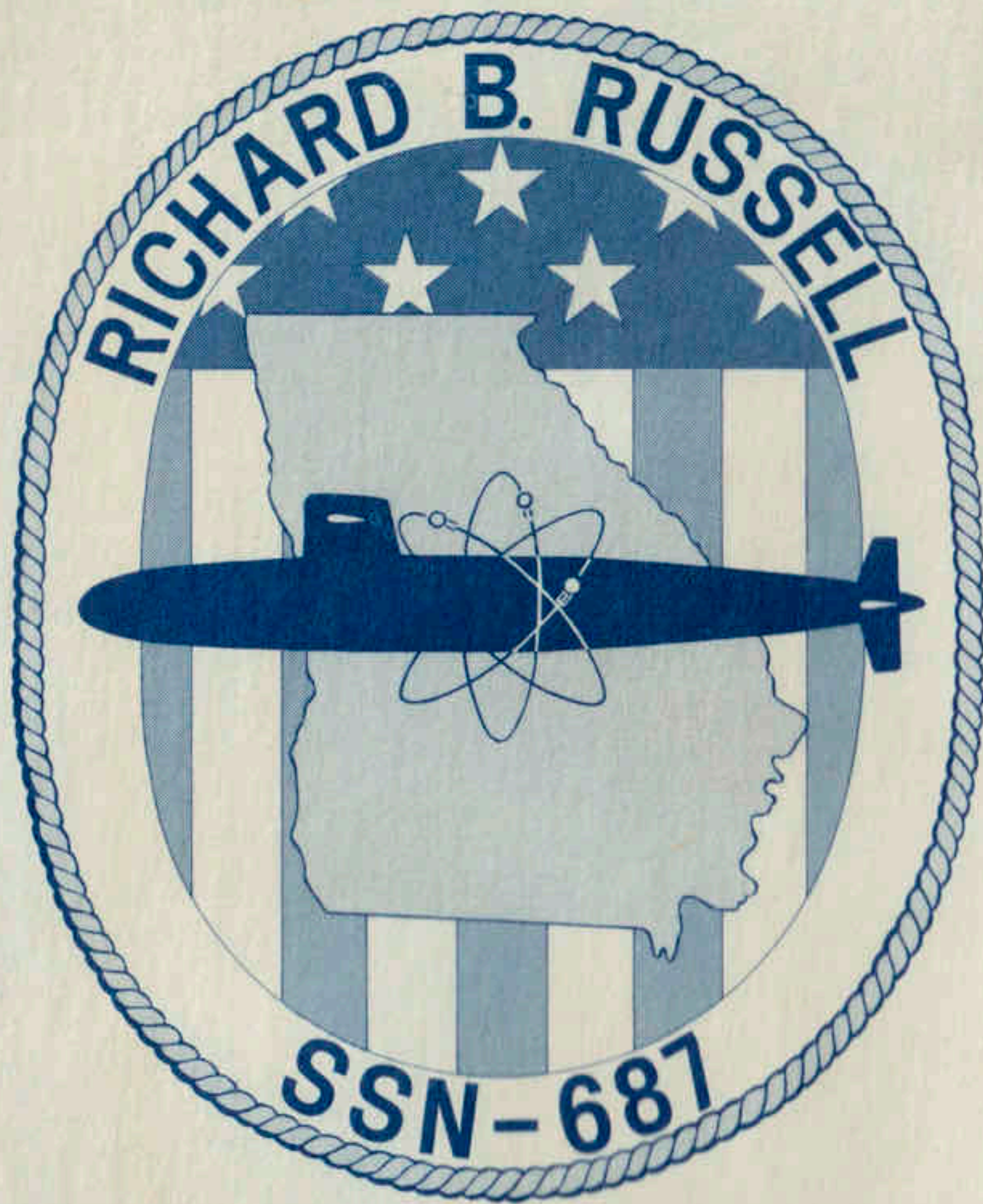
Two other elements are characterized. A nuclear attack submarine is shown in silhouette against the background of the state of Georgia. The USS RICHARD B. RUSSELL is one of 37 Sturgeon Class attack submarines in commission. Georgia is symbolic of Senator Russell and the people he served as Representative, Governor and Senator.

The ship's emblem was designed by Chief Machinist Mate D. R. Lewis, USN, a member of RUSSELL's initial crew.



"Where the Flag is Committed, I am Committed"

The Honorable Richard B. Russell
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Appropriations
President pro tempore of the United States
Senate



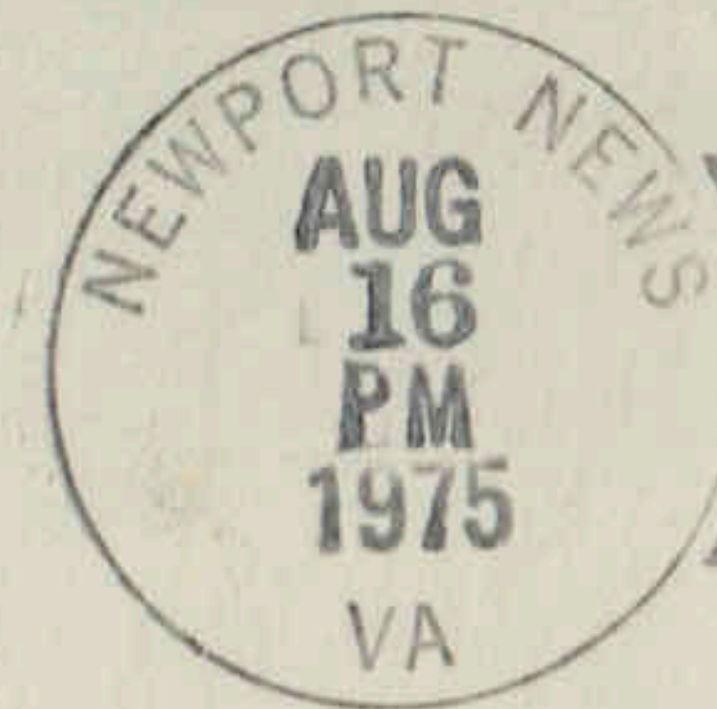
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