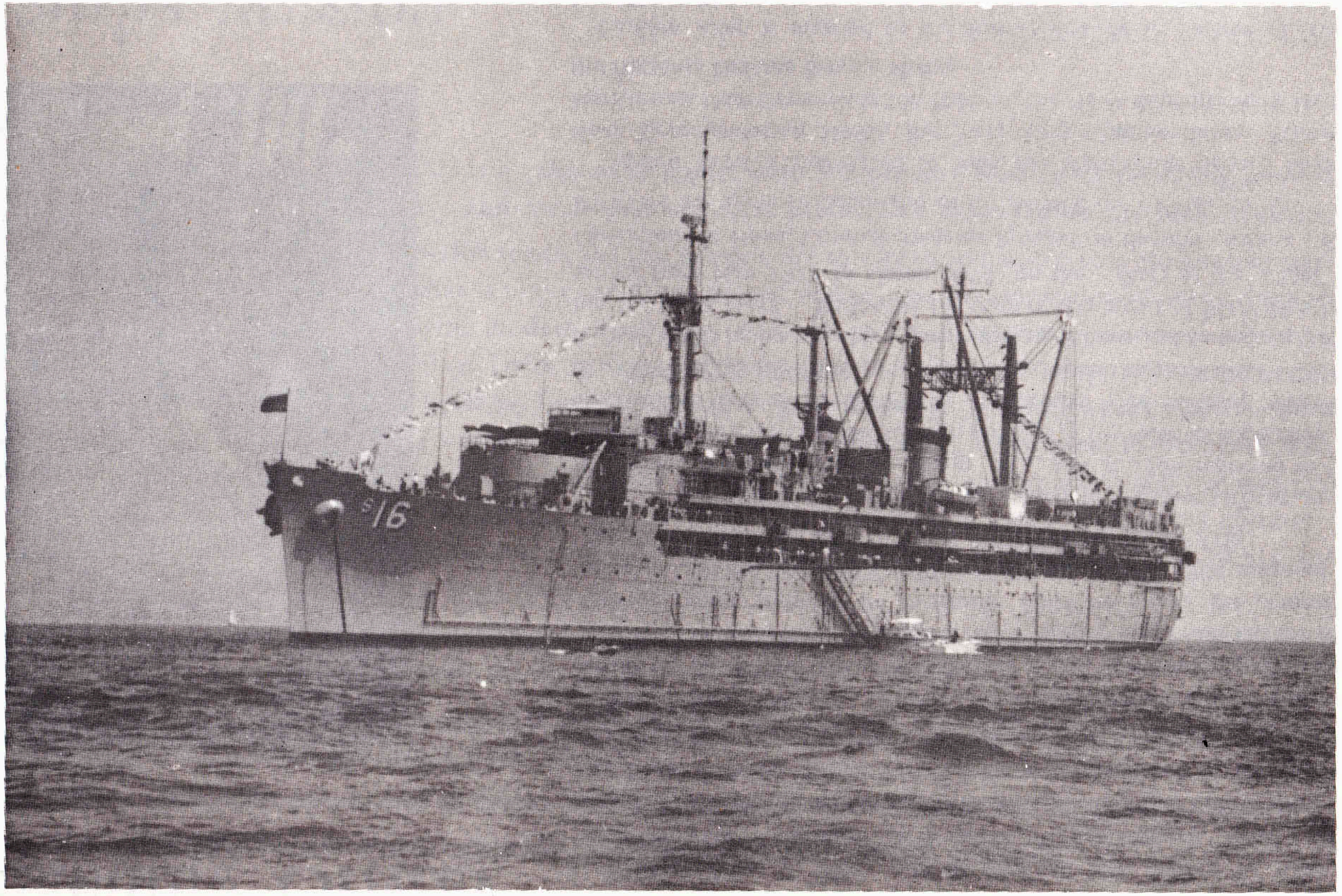
Welcome



Aboard

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JAN 20 1979

USS Howard W. Gilmore AS-16

Commanding Officer

CAPTAIN JOHN E. ALLEN, USN

Captain John E. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Allen, Jr. of Hanover, New Hampshire, is a native of Mamaroneck, New York and a graduate of Dartmouth College. He received his Navy commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program and served his first two-year tour of duty in the attack cargo ship USS WASHBURN (AKA 108).

Following completion of basic training at Submarine School in 1958, he began his submarine career with service in the diesel-electric submarine USS TROUT (SS 566) until September 1961 when he was selected for advanced nuclear power training. In December 1962 he joined the commissioning crew of USS LAFAYETTE (SSBN 616) and in June 1964 assumed duty as Engineer Officer of USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN 618).

Captain Allen next served for two years as Engineer Officer on the Staff of Commander Submarine Squadron SIX, and in 1968 reported to the commissioning crew of USS BERGALL (SSN667) for duty as Executive Officer. He assumed duty in April 1971 as Prospective Commanding Officer, USS SILVERSIDES (SSN679), and upon Commissioning of SILVERSIDES on 5 May 1972 he became her Commanding Officer and served in that position for three years. Following his tour in command of SILVERSIDES, he served from May 1975 to March 1978 on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head, Combat Systems Integration Section. Attack Submarine Division. He assumed command of GILMORE on 15 May 1978.

Captain Allen is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Navy Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Captain Allen is married to the former Jewelle D. Carlson of Irvington, New York. They have three children, Barbara, James and Carolyne.

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Ship's Mission

The HOWARD W. GILMORE is a submarine tender with the primary mission of providing services, weapons, repairs, spare parts, dry and fresh provisions to submarines deployed to the Mediterranean.

To the submarines the GILMORE tends, she can provide the services comparable to a moderately-sized city. Repairs of all kinds, other than a major overhaul or conversion, can be accomplished while ships are alongside. Shops are equipped with modern machinery and are operated by Navy personnel who have received extensive technical training. Units in Repair Department include: pipe shop, submarine engine overhaul, sheet metal, electrical, welding, foundry, gyro compass, drafting, pattern, canvas, machine shop, rubber shop, print shop, interior communications, optical shop, photo lab, mechanical instruments radio and radar repair. In addition, GILMORE provides the attack submarine with both practice and live weapons which help ensure the security of the NATO countries. The GILMORE's many storerooms contain a multi-million dollar inventory of spares, repair parts and equipments to maintain both GILMORE and the Submarines she supports in a high state of readiness.

GILMORE provides medical and dental care for approximately 1100 officers and men. GILMORE's medical facility is equipped to handle minor surgery and emergency operations.

GILMORE also looks to the personal needs of the submarines by providing laundry, tailor, cobbler, disbursing, soda fountain and ship's store services.

Divine services are conducted on board each Sunday and on special occasions by the Chaplains.

The ship's complement is approximately 36 Officers and 850 enlisted personnel.

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Ship's History

The GILMORE is the sixth of seven FULTON-class submarine tenders. When the keel was laid 21 December 1942 in Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California the ship was to be named USS NEPTUNE. Prior to her launching, however, the Navy Department, desiring to honor one of the outstanding heroes of the war, renamed her HOWARD W. GILMORE for the submarine commander who, lying wounded on the bridge after a surface engagement, gave his life to save his ship and crew by giving the now famous order, "Take Her Down."

The ship was launched 16 September 1943, sponsored by Mrs. Howard W. Gilmore, widow of the late Commander GILMORE and resident of New Orleans. The tender was placed in commission 24 May 1944 and turned over to her first Commanding Officer, Captain Daniel N. CONE, USN, of San Francisco, California.

After leaving Pearl Harbor in September 1944, the GILMORE spent her time at various Pacific ports, refitting and provisioning submarines until 30 August 1945. At this time, in the company of eighteen submarines, she returned to the United States, carrying more than one thousand servicemen home as passengers.

After a brief stay at Bayonne, New Jersey, GILMORE proceeded to her new homeport of Key West, Florida as a unit of Submarine Squadron Four. In April 1959, GILMORE moved to U. S. Naval Base, Charleston, South Carolina with Squadron FOUR.

In July 1970 GILMORE returned to Key West, Florida, this time to become a unit of Submarine Squadron TWELVE.

On 23 March 1973 GILMORE shifted her homeport to LaMaddalena, Sardinia, Italy where she provides services to United States Submarines deployed to the Mediterranean.

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