

USS HADDOCK (SSN 621)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

At Sea
Gulf of Mexico
25 September 1967

Dear Dwight:

We are returning from the first sea trials of the USS HADDOCK (SSN621), our 31st attack type nuclear submarine. The ship completed all tests, including full power operation, both surface and submerged. The HADDOCK, third United States submarine to bear this name, was built by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The first HADDOCK (SS32) was commissioned 17 March 1914 and served overseas during World War I. She was stricken from the Navy Register on 18 December 1930 as a result of the London Treaty.

The second HADDOCK (SS231) was commissioned on 14 March 1942. In World War II, she made 13 war patrols and sank eight Japanese ships for a total of 33,585 tons. She was the first submarine to carry search radar which enabled her to seek out the enemy in darkness and fog--revolutionary tactics, at that time, in submarine warfare. She won 11 battle stars as well as the Presidential Unit Citation. After the war, the HADDOCK was decommissioned and used to train Naval Reservists from 1948 to 1952, and again from 1956 to 1960. She also was used briefly in 1953 as an experimental chamber for testing the menace of carbon dioxide in submarines. She was stricken from the Navy Register and sold for scrap on 1 June 1960.

The new HADDOCK's primary wartime mission is to destroy enemy submarines. She is equipped with a comprehensive sonar system and a computer-controlled weapons system which enable her to detect and attack surface or submerged targets at considerable distances. The unlimited cruising radius, high speed, and quietness provided by nuclear propulsion, combined with deep submergence capability and the latest weapons and electronics systems, make her a most effective antisubmarine weapon.

In addition to the 31 attack type nuclear submarines, we also have 41 Polaris submarines, making a total of 72 nuclear submarines in operation. When all nuclear submarines presently authorized by Congress are completed, the United States will have a nuclear submarine fleet of 41 Polaris and 65 attack submarines, and a small submarine capable of exploring the ocean bottom.

Sincerely,


H. G. Rickover

Mr. Dwight A. Ink
Rockville, Maryland