USS REQUIN (SS/AGSS/SSR/IXSS-481)
Hall of Fame Nomination

HISTORY of the Radar Picket Submarine

The high casualties off Okinawa during WW II gave rise to the radar picket submarine, which had the option of diving when under attack. It was planned to employ converted radar picket submarines should the invasion of Japan become necessary. Two submarines received rudimentary radar conversions during the war, and in 1946 two more extensive conversions were performed. The radar equipment of these diesel submarines took the place of torpedoes and their tubes in the stern torpedo rooms. By 1953, a total of 10 SSR conversions had been performed.

USS REQUIN

Requin (SS-481) was laid down on 24 August 1944 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N.H.; launched on 1 January 1945; sponsored by Mrs. Slade D. Cutter; and commissioned on 28 April 1945, Commander Slade D. Cutter in command.

She joined the Pacific Fleet on 13 July at Balboa and at the end of the month reached Pearl Harbor. Two weeks after her arrival, however, World War II ended and *Requin*, by then en route to Guam, was recalled and ordered back to the Atlantic.

She arrived at Staten Island, N.Y., on 18 September; remained in that area through the year; and on 6 January 1946 sailed for Key West, where she joined Submarine Squadron

4 (SubRon 4). Later in the year she returned to Portsmouth, N.H., for conversion to a radar picket submarine.

Radar Picket Operations

To determine & direct what was going on aloft. In mid ocean in company with a surface task force or close to shore to detect enemy flights or launch strikes at night in poor weather conditions with radar control accuracy.

After room (no tubes) - radar room & radar equipment & bunking area for 6/8 enlisted.

Air search radar capable of reaching out 200--225 nautical miles -large face on antenna and bigger surface search radar caused considerable reduced boat speed when submerged.

Surface search range only capable of only 40/50 nautical miles when antenna raised to max height (curvature of earth caused restricted range - about every 8 miles earth had a bend.

Height determination radar antenna located on deck level near rear of boat -rocked up-down. In the vertical - capable of altitude determinations of incoming bogeys or out going combat Air Patrol Strike.

5/6 radarmen on board - all enlisted - 3rd class to chief - all proficient in radar interpretation and radio vectoring - determining incoming altitude, course and speed.

Most of time division officer let the enlisted run the show - occasionally interceptions officer would take a turn at an interception.

Disposition

In October 1968 Requin began inactivation at Norfolk. Decommissioned on 3 December 1968, she was sent to St. Petersburg, Fla., in February 1969 and served there as a Naval Reserve Training ship until struck from the Navy list 20 December 1971. It remained a Trainer until 1971 when it was reclassified as IXSS-481, {unclassified submarine}. USS Requin was finally struck from the U.S. Navy list on December 20, 1971.

In October, 1990, Requin dedicated as a memorial and museum exhibit and opened for tours at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, educating hundreds of thousands of visitors about life and science aboard a submarine in the mid-20th Century. Preserved within her 312-foot-long hull is the technology of a bygone era; she is a far cry from the sleek nuclear-powered behemoths that now patrol our seas.

Awards

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Medal with "Europe" clasp
National Defense Service Medal with star

List of radar picket submarines

USS Pompon (SSR-267)
USS Ray (SSR-271)
USS Redfin (SSR-272)
USS Burrfish (SSR-312)
USS Tigrone (SSR-419)
USS Requin (SSR-481)
USS Rasher (SSR-269)
USS Raton (SSR-270)
USS Rock (SSR-274)
USS Spinax (SSR-489)

USS Salmon (SSR-573)
USS Sailfish (SSR-572)
USS Triton (SSRN-586)