



SSN 593

THE CAPTAIN



Lieutenant Commander JOHN W. HARVEY, USN, THRESHER's second Commanding Officer, was born on September 4, 1927, the son of Mr. and Mrs. MANNING J. HARVEY. He was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and attended Frankford High School and the University of Pennsylvania prior to entering the United States Naval Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1950.

Before entering the submarine service, he served for a year in the aircraft carrier CORAL SEA. From January 1952 to June 1953, he served aboard the submarine SEA ROBIN. He then commenced Atomic Energy Commission training for duty aboard the USS NAUTILUS and served on that first nuclear submarine for 38 months.

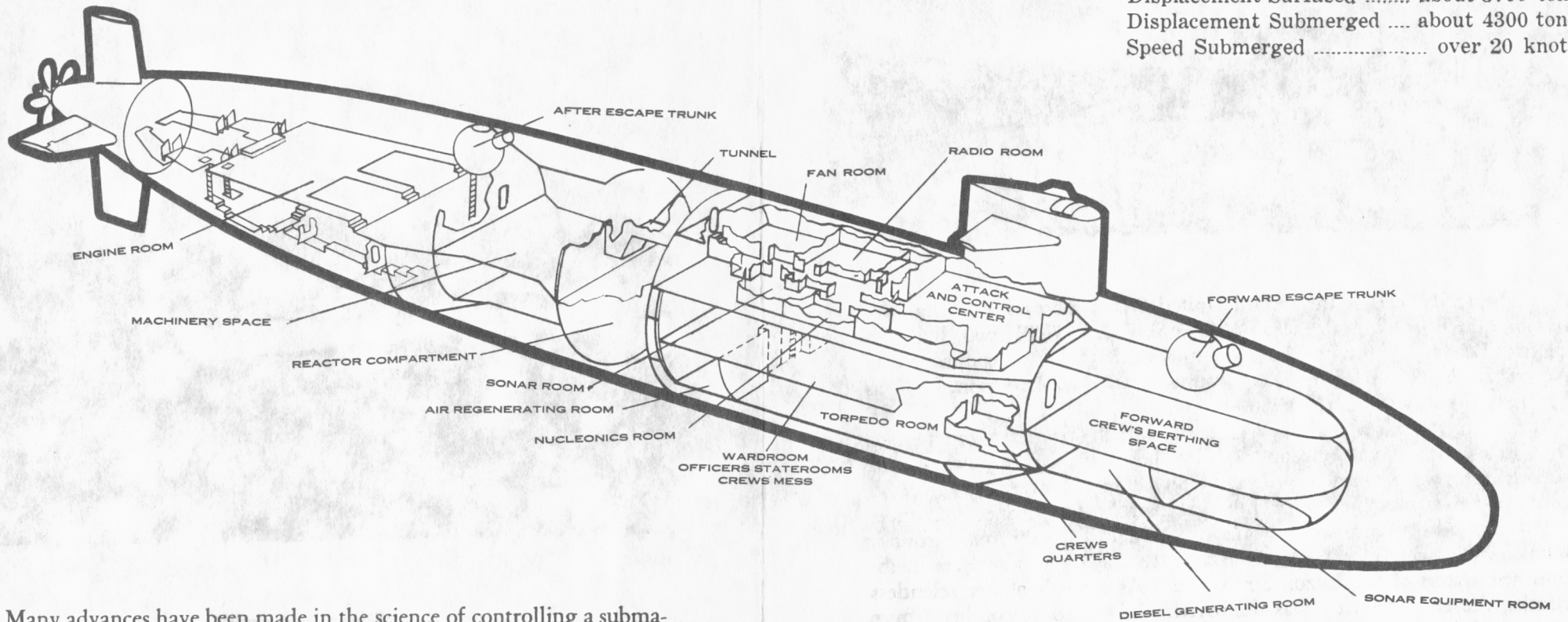
Lieutenant Commander HARVEY's next tour of duty was as Chief Engineer of the TULLIBEE nuclear reactor prototype and later as commissioning Engineer Officer of the USS TULLIBEE herself.

In June 1961, he reported to the USS SEA DRAGON for duty as Executive Officer. In the summer of 1962, he participated in SEA DRAGON's polar rendezvous with SKATE.

Lieutenant Commander HARVEY relieved THRESHER's first Commanding Officer, Commander DEAN L. AXENE, USN, on January 18, 1963.

Keel Laid May 28, 1958 Length over 275 feet
 Launched July 9, 1960 Width over 30 feet
 Commissioned August 3, 1961

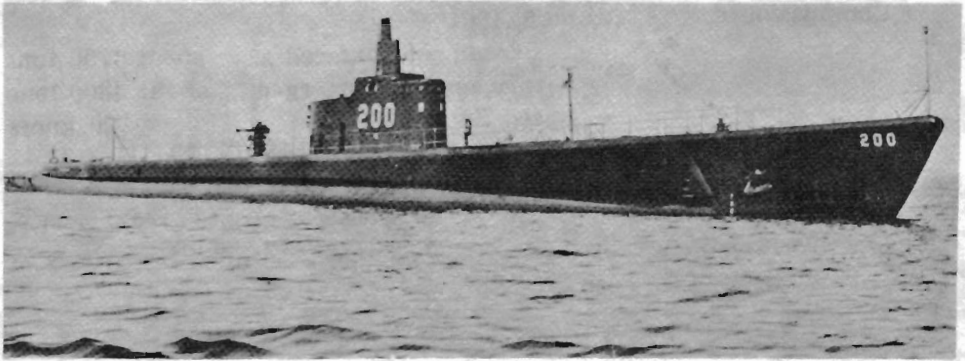
Displacement Surfaced about 3700 tons
 Displacement Submerged about 4300 tons
 Speed Submerged over 20 knots



Many advances have been made in the science of controlling a submarine underwater, most of which have been incorporated in THRESHER. The ship, for example, can be controlled both on course and in depth by a single man. An automatic feature is also included in the control system which keeps the ship at the ordered depth and course.

Living conditions aboard THRESHER have been designed for the entire crew to live comfortably while totally submerged for periods of time greater than 30 days. The ship is equipped with an air conditioning system, carbon dioxide scrubbers, carbon monoxide-hydrogen burners, electrostatic precipitators and oxygen storage flasks to maintain the ship's atmosphere healthful during extended periods of submergence. Because of its importance to the normal functioning of both men and equipment, the atmosphere is monitored continuously while submerged.

THRESHER is outfitted with the latest sonar equipment which has greatly increased detection abilities. To increase this advantage further and to minimize the chance of detection by unfriendly ships many design features have been incorporated in THRESHER to increase her quietness. Another significant advancement in this ship is her ability to cruise the ocean at greater depths than all previous submarines. THRESHER is also equipped with the latest fire control equipment which has semi-automatic loading and firing capabilities for the most recently designed submarine weapons.



The (SSN 593) is the second United States submarine to bear the name THRESHER. The first THRESHER (SS200) was built by Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. She was commissioned August 27, 1940 with Lieutenant Commander W. L. Anderson, USN as her first Commanding Officer. On December 7, 1941 THRESHER was returning from a practice war patrol which, from the moment of the attack on Pearl Harbor, became her first actual war patrol. THRESHER was awarded the Navy Unit Citation for her extraordinary accomplishments on her thirteenth war patrol. On this patrol, under the command of Commander Duncan C. McMillan, she made contact with four Japanese merchant vessels and two Japanese destroyers in the confined waters of the Luzon Strait area. As a result of her relentless attacks, the entire convoy was destroyed. In the course of her fifteen war patrols she sank 17 enemy vessels totaling 66,172 tons and damaged twelve additional ships which amounted to about 80,000 tons temporarily put out of commission. On July 12, 1946 THRESHER was decommissioned at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and December 23, 1947 was stricken from the U. S. Naval vessels listing after a distinguished career.

Thresher Shark

USS THRESHER (SSN 593) is named for a shark of the family *Alopias*. Known scientifically as *ALOPIAS VULPINUS* (Bonnaterre), the Thresher is easy to recognize because its tail is longer than the combined length of its head and body, and the first dorsal fin does not extend backward to the pelvic fin. The Thresher derives its name from the supposed habit of using its tail to beat the water in a compact school of fish, stunning some of the fish and eating the injured ones. Harmless to man, the maximum length of the Thresher shark is more than 20 feet.

USS THRESHER (SSN 593)



“Silent Strength”

USS THRESHER (SSN 593), is the lead ship of the world's most advanced class of nuclear submarines. THRESHER, which is similar in construction to other recent submarines, has a Westinghouse S5W reactor plant, a single propellor driven by a geared turbine and an ALBA-CORE teardrop-shaped hull. However, with her “built in” silent quality, she is one of the most effective anti-submarine weapons in the Navy arsenal. She has the ability to operate deeper as well as more silently than her predecessors, thus making her detection extremely difficult. The advanced sonar aboard is the most comprehensive detection system ever devised for underwater craft. She is equipped to fire the Navy's newest submarine weapons.

THRESHER was sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder who christened the ship in a unique bow first launching on July 9, 1960, at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.