

USS TRITON COMPLETES THE FIRST SUBMERGED CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD

The USS TRITON (SSNR 586), the world's largest nuclear submarine, returns home today after completing the first submerged circumnavigation for the world.

The Commanding Officer of the TRITON, Captain Edward L. Beach, received orders to proceed around the world submerged, unsupported and undetected on this shakedown cruise that included oceanographic and geophysical research.

The route traveled followed that of Ferdinand Magellan whose expedition left Cadiz, Spain in 1519. Magellan's trip took three years. The crew of the TRITON traveled submerged over 36,000 miles in 84 days.

Sequences show:

- a.) USS TRITON heads down Thames River in New London, Conn. on February 16, 1960 to the submergin point off Montauk Point, Long Island.
- b.) Focal point for the circumnavigation of the world -- St. Peters and Paul Rocks, an outcropping of the Atlantic ridge off the coast of Brazil near the Equator.
- c.) Crossing the Equator the first of four times during the cruise brought the usual ceremonies for the uninitiated. Even the eight civilian scientists on board paid service to King Neptune.
- d.) Detected by one of the scientific instruments on board, a depth recorded, was an uncharted ocean mountain peak rising 8,400 ft. from the bottom of the sea, appropriately named Mount Triton.
- e.) Rounding Capt Horn on March 7th, the periscope camera shows the usual treacherous weather.
- f.) On Sunday, March 27th, services are held in memorany of the men of the first USS TRITON lost during WWII with "all hands" after an outstanding combat record. With the bow pointed toward the Admiralty Island, the crew stands at attention and a salute is fired through the torpedo tubes. The ship's bell of the old TRITON, held in permanent tribute, conspicuously mounted in the new TRITON.
- g.) One of the many scientific experiments conducted during the cruise is the ejection of hundreds of bottles in the study of ocean currents.
- h.) On March 28th, the island of Guam, a port of call of Magellan centuries ago, is viewed by Captain Beach.
- i.) After transisting the Surlgao Straits, the TRITON came to periscope depth in Philippine waters of Actan Island where Magellan was killed by the natives in 1520.
- j.) The TRITON enters the Indian Ocean for the long cruise to the Cape of Good Hope during which the Navy Hydrographic scientists take gravity readings and continue their study of water temperatures.
- k.) On April 25th, 61 days and 27,234 miles after leavingleaving "home plate", St. Peter and Paul Rocks are again sighted to complete the circumnavigation.
- l.) Hundreds of submerged circumnavigation certificates are signed by the officers and men of the TRITON to mail to families and friends.
- m.) The chachet design is copied from a bronze plague made by a crew member for future placement on the Magellan monument in Cadiz, Spain, where the first trip started. The bronze plaque is appropriately inscribed "Ave Novilis Duz [reum.: Sactum Est", "Hail Noble Captain, It is Done Again. 1519-1960

USS TRITON

- #1 General shots of sub in Atlantic
- #2 Skipper - Captain Beach - is hauled aboard Helicopter.
- #3 Arrival at White House
CU - Beach talking with Rickover and Ike
- #4-5 Presents Beach with Legion of Merit Medal. Beach and wife kiss.

Magellan Naval Ceremony

- 1. Admiral James S. Russell, Vice Chief of Naval Operations
- 2. Admiral Robert L. Dennison, Commander in Chief, Atlantic
- 3. Hon. Wm. B. Franke, Secretary of the Navy
- 4. Hon. Thomas S. Gates, Secretary of Defense
- 5. Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, Assistant Director,
(Division of Reactor Development, Atomic Energy Commission, and
Assitant Chief of Bureau of Ships for Nuclear Propulsion.)
- 6. Captain Beach
- 7. President Eisenhower
- 8. Award

CITATION

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the LEGION OF MERIT to Captain Edward L. Beach, United States Navy, for services as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. TRITON during the first submerged voyage around the world.

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service while serving on board the U.S.S. TRITON from the 16th of February 1960 to the 10th of May 1960. As Commanding Officer, Captain Edward L. Beach, U.S. Navy, led his crew with courage, foresight and determination in an unprecedented circumnavigation of the globe, proving man's ability under trying conditions to accomplish prolonged submerged missions as well as testing new and complex equipment in the world's largest submarine. This historic voyage took his ship into strange waters under difficult and frequently unknown conditions, as a result, the TRITON collected much valuable oceanographic information. Captain Beach's sound judgement, masterful leadership, professional skill and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest tradition of the naval service."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER