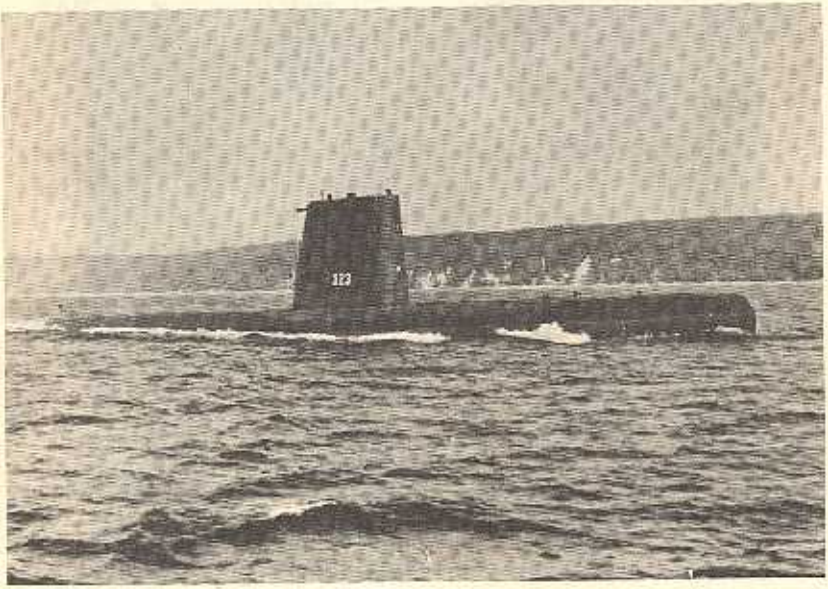
Welcome Aboard



U.S.S. CAIMAN SS-323

CAIMAN HISTORY

USS CAIMAN was built as a Fleet Type Submarine by the Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut and was commissioned on July 17, 1944. On November 13, 1944 she departed on her first war patrol. CAIMAN made four patrols during the closing months of World War II; but encountered only minor combat activity, reflecting the heavy losses the Japanese Fleet had suffered by this date.

During CAIMAN's fourth patrol the war ended, but CAIMAN continued to operate out of Pearl Harbor until the beginning of the Korean Conflict. She made two cruises to the arctic during this period.

In April 1951 CAIMAN entered the Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Vallejo, California for conversion from a World War II Fleet Type Submarine to a modernized streamlined GUPPY Type. (GUPPY is a popular abbreviation for Greater Underwater Propulsion Power.) This was accomplished by streamlining the hull and conning tower, installing high capacity electric storage batteries and a snorkel breathing apparatus which permits operation of diesel engines while submerged.

CAIMAN supported the United Nations operations in Korea with a six month tour in Western Pacific waters commencing in February 1952. For operations during this period CAIMAN earned a commendation from the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Since the Korean Conflict the CAIMAN has completed successful deployments to the Western Pacific in 1954, 1956, 1958, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1968, and 1969.

The CAIMAN has earned the coveted "E" for battle efficiency in 1955, 1957, 1965 and 1966.

CAIMAN is 307 feet long, 27 feet wide at the broadest portion of her beam and displaces approximately 1800 tons of water when surfaced.

COMMANDING OFFICER of CAIMAN

LCDR Allen C. JOHANNESEN relieved CDR George N. HELM, Jr. on 25 April 1969 to become the 19th Commanding Officer of the CAIMAN. LCDR JOHANNESEN, a graduate of the University of Washington, has previously served on the submarines DIODON (SS 349), SEGUNDO (SS 398), and CHOPPER (SS 342) in addition to staff duty with Submarine Squadron FIVE and Fleet Airborne Electronics Training Unit Pacific. Prior to entering Submarine School he served aboard the USS LOWE (DER 325) and as Assistant to the Chief Inspector, COMSTSNORPACSUBAREA.

LCDR JOHANNESEN is married to the former Sonja A. EIDSVOOG of Seattle, Washington. They have four children.

CAIMAN AND THE SUBMARINE FORCE

The USS CAIMAN (SS323) is homeported in San Diego, California and normally carries a crew of 75 men and 9 officers. She is a unit of Submarine Division THIRTY-THREE and Submarine Squadron THREE; these are administrative sub-divisions of Submarine Flotilla ONE which embraces all Submarine activity in the Southern California area. Submarine Flotilla ONE joins Flotilla FIVE in Hawaii and SEVEN in Yokosuka, Japan as units of the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. The Pacific Submarine Force has operated unsupported by surface units and often virtually undetected in all waters from the Suez to the Panama Canals and from one pole to the other since long before World War II. Combined with a similar force in the Atlantic Fleet which operates in virtually all the remaining international waters of the world, the Submarine Force is a major keystone in the war time mission assigned the U.S. Navy of controlling the use of the high seas for allied purposes and denying that use to any declared enemy.

Although CAIMAN's original hull was constructed in 1944 she has been extensively modernized, carries the latest torpedoes for armament, has a full suite of currently modern electronic equipment and can operate submerged and unsupported for months at a time. This class of improved diesel electric submarines still represent the bulk of the U.S. Submarine defense posture. At this time, however, large numbers of new deep diving high speed nuclear powered submarines with unlimited endurance are coming off the ways and joining the fleet. These, together with the nuclear powered ballistic missile firing "FBM" class submarines will in the near future make up the majority of the units in the submarine force and in the not too distant future will replace the diesel electric submarines entirely.