



U.S.S. CORPORAL (SS-346)

FLEET POST OFFICE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding Officer, USS CORPORAL (SS346)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.
Subj: Command History for Calender Year 1968; forwarding of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A of 31 Oct 1968
Encl: (1) Chronology of years events for calender year 1968
(2) Basic narrative history of USS CORPORAL (SS346)
for calender year 1968
(3) Documentary annexes

1. Enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are herewith submitted in accordance with reference (a).

R. S. Anderson, Jr.
R. S. ANDERSON, Jr.
By direction

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CHRONOLOGY OF YEARS EVENTS
FOR CALENDER YEAR 1968

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1 JAN - 29 JAN In port, U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, preparing for regular shipyard overhaul.

29 JAN - 4 FEB Enroute Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Conduct trim dives for compensation prior to overhaul.

6 FEB - 10 JUL Regular overhaul at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

10 JUL - 14 JUL Sea trials.

14 JUL - 22 JUL Completion of shipyard overhaul and RFS period.

24 JUL - 6 AUG In port New London, Connecticut.

29 JUL Change of command ceremonies.
CDR W. B. HUBBELL, USN relieved by CDR J. P. SHEETS, USN

6 AUG - 20 AUG Type training exercises.

27 AUG - 29 AUG Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Tests.

2 SEP - 30 SEP Upkeep period at New London, Connecticut, and type training exercises.

1 OCT - 3 NOV Services provided to Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Forces, Atlantic. Weapons System Accuracy Tests in Caribbean area.

3 NOV - 11 NOV Enroute New London, Connecticut.

12 NOV - 24 NOV Upkeep at New London, Connecticut.

25 NOV - 26 NOV Services provided to SECOND Fleet units.

2 DEC - 5 DEC Services provided to Basic Officers Submarine School.

6 DEC - 31 DEC Holiday leave and upkeep at New London, Connecticut.

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Enclosure (1)

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BASIC NARRATIVE HISTORY OF USS CORPORAL (SS346)
FOR CALENDER YEAR 1968

USS CORPORAL (SS346), a GUPPY III class submarine homeported at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, is a unit of Submarine Division TWENTY-ONE of Submarine Squadron TWO and has the distinction of being Flagship for Rear Admiral R. D. NACE, Commander Submarine Flotilla TWO. CORPORAL's Commanding Officer, CDR Jean P. SHEETS, took command on 29 July 1968, having relieved CDR Walter B. HUBBELL. At year's end CDR SHEETS commanded a crew of 8 officers and 82 enlisted men.

CORPORAL's primary mission is, in time of war, to seek out and destroy enemy submarines, and during peacetime, to train her men and maintain her equipment to accomplish this mission. Concurrently, she provides services for the training of various ASW units.

The year 1968, began with CORPORAL alongside at New London, preparing for her regular shipyard overhaul. At the end of January, she left port, conducted compensating trim dives, and arrived at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 6 February. For 5 months, shipyard personnel and the CORPORAL crew worked the ship back into peak operating condition, and on 10 July CORPORAL commenced sea trials. Back in Philadelphia on 14 July, she went through post sea trial checks and headed back to New London on 22 July, having successfully completed her overhaul.

On 29 July, change of command ceremonies were held in New London. Under the new skipper, CDR Jean P. SHEETS, the CORPORAL left port on 6 August to conduct 2 weeks of type training exercises, followed by 3 days of Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Checks at New London and Cape Cod.

September's schedule was composed of a week of upkeep in New London, a week of type training, another weeks upkeep, and finally, a week of Accurad Tests. Then, on 1 October, CORPORAL departed New London for the Caribbean area. After a 4 day visit to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands CORPORAL provided services to Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Forces from 11 to 18 October. On 19 October, CORPORAL arrived at San Juan, Puerto Rico for a 4 day visit, prior to conducting Weapon System Accuracy Trials at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and St. Croix, Virgin Islands. With Weapon System Accuracy Trials completed on 3 November, she left the Caribbean, setting course for Norfolk, Virginia. Arriving in Norfolk on 8 November, CORPORAL underwent deperming and left the following day for New London with Rear Admiral R. D. NACE, Commander Submarine Flotilla TWO embarked.

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CORPORAL arrived in New London on 11 November and spent the next 2 weeks in upkeep. On 25 November, CORPORAL Provided services for 2 days to units of the SECOND Fleet, and then 5 days of tactics training to officers of Submarine School. From 6 December to the end of the year CORPORAL remained in port at New London for a period of holiday leave and upkeep.

During 1968, CORPORAL made 65 dives, and travelled nearly 10,000 miles, burning 225,000 gallons of fuel. She experienced no equipment or personnel casualties, and had no problems with the performance of her material or weapons systems. In December her galley was nominated from Submarine Division TWENTY-ONE for the Ney Award. In all respects, 1968 was a good year for the USS CORPORAL.

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Enclosure (2)

SHIPS HISTORY

The USS CORPORAL (SS-346) was built by the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Connecticut. The keel was laid in April 1945 and she was launched forty-five days later on June 10, 1945. Commissioning and delivery to the Navy took place on November 9, 1945, too late for any participation in World War II.

In January 1946 CORPORAL commenced her "shakedown" cruise to the Canal Zone, Republic of Panama and joined Submarine Squadron FOUR in Key West, Florida. During 1946 and 1947 CORPORAL took part in anti-submarine and Atlantic Fleet Exercises.

Returning to Groton, Connecticut in 1948 she was modernized by conversion to a "GUPPY II" class submarine. ("GUPPY" is an acronym for "Greater Underwater Propulsion Power"). This conversion entailed the removal of her deck guns, the installation of a more powerful battery, streamlining of the hull and the addition of a "snorkel" system. The snorkel system allows CORPORAL to operate submerged using her diesel engines with only a small induction pipe extending above the water.

Following this first modernization, CORPORAL rejoined Submarine Squadron FOUR at Key West. In 1952 she saw duty with the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean and then made many deployments away from the United States, including a trip to Northern Europe during 1960-1961. During this trip CORPORAL recorded six firsts. She was the first U. S. submarine to operate with the Federal German Navy in German waters, transit the Kiel Canal, visit Kiel and Hamburg, Germany and she also embarked Princess Grace of Monaco for her first cruise in a submarine.

In 1962 CORPORAL entered Charleston Naval Shipyard for her second modernization, this time to a "GUPPY III" class. During the ten month conversion she was "sliced" in half and a fifteen foot section was inserted amidships. This lengthening of the hull facilitated the installation of new and sophisticated electronics and weapons systems. A high fiberglass "sail" was constructed and installed over her conning tower.

From 1963 to the present CORPORAL has deployed a number of times to the Mediterranean and North Atlantic, conducting submarine operations and participating in fleet exercises. She has undergone periodic shipyard overhauls in order to maintain herself in peak operating condition. The most recent overhaul was completed in July 1968 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

CORPORAL's primary mission remains, in time of war, to seek out and destroy enemy submarines and, during peacetime, to train her men and maintain her equipment to accomplish this mission.



COMMANDER JEAN PAUL SHEETS
UNITED STATES NAVY

A native of Nelson, Nebraska, Commander SHEETS graduated from Western Washington State College receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1953.

After commissioning through Officer Candidate School he reported for duty with the Military Sea Transportation Service at Seattle, Washington. Sea duty assignments included duty in USS EDMONDS (DE-406) and submarines CHARR (SS-328), BREAM (SS-243) and SEA FOX (SS-402). His assignment on board SEA FOX was as Executive Officer.

Commander SHEETS attended Naval Intelligence School in 1962 followed by a tour of duty on the Staff of Commander U. S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander in Chief Atlantic.

Commander SHEETS reports as Commanding Officer, USS CORPORAL from duty with the Navy Fleet Operational Intelligence Center at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Commander SHEETS is entitled to wear the following decorations, campaign, and service medals: Navy Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal (Korean Conflict), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Quemoy and Matsu Islands) and the Vietnam Defense Medal.

He is married to the former Joyce Marilyn Peterson, of Olympia, Washington, and they have two children: Andrea Jean, age 3, and Paul Alan, age 6. They reside in Groton, Connecticut.