



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS CORPORAL (SS 346)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CORPORAL (SS 346)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
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Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1972 (OPNAV Report
5750-1); forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic Narrative History of USS CORPORAL (SS 346)
for calendar year 1972

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

R. S. Anderson, Jr.
R. S. ANDERSON, JR.

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BASIC NARRATIVE HISTORY OF USS CORPORAL (SS 346)

FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1972

USS CORPORAL (SS 346) is a GUPPY III diesel-electric submarine homeported at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, Connecticut. CORPORAL is a unit of Submarine Division TWENTY-ONE which is presently commanded by CDR J. G. FLETCHER, USN. Until 1 July, CORPORAL was commanded by CDR James H. SIMPSON, U.S. Navy. On that date he was relieved by CDR Richard S. ANDERSON, JR., USN, with 74 men and 8 officers under his command.


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

The year began with CORPORAL ending a two week port visit to Piraeus, Greece, halfway through her Mediterranean deployment. She left Piraeus 3 January and conducted intensive training exercises with other members of the U.S. SIXTH Fleet. After nine days of operating, CORPORAL arrived in the Greek town of Volos for a four day visit.

Operations with CTG 60.1 of the SIXTH Fleet occupied the next ten days, from 17-26 January, and ended with a visit to the Italian Naval Submarine Base at Toranto, Italy. While in Toranto, RADM HANNIFIN, Commander of Submarine Flotilla EIGHT in Naples, paid the ship a visit on 27 January.

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CORPORAL left Taranto on 1 February and arrived in Corfu, Greece on 3 February for a short port visit. Operational NATIONAL WEEK followed from 5 to 9 February. The wash-up was conducted at Augusta Bay, Sicily, on 10 February. During the stop-over, CORPORAL was visited by VADM G. E. MILLER, Commander of the SIXTH Fleet and again by RADM HANNIFIN.

On 11 February, CORPORAL began the transit to Naples, Italy where she arrived on 15 February for five days. From 21-22 February she transited to Barcelona, Spain, where she stayed until 26 February. On the 27th she left for Rota, Spain where she arrived on the 28th for turnover to USS COBBLER (SS 344) and preparation for the return trip to New London.

CORPORAL left Rota on 1 March and arrived in her homeport for the first time this year on 12 March. At that time she began a five week rest period and upkeep. The upkeep was climaxed by a highly successful dependents' cruise on 21 April. After a weekend inport, CORPORAL provided training for five Submarine School officer students while in passage to Halifax, N.S. After the weekend of 28-30 April in Halifax, CORPORAL returned to New London with Commander Submarine Division TWENTY-ONE, at that time CDR H.A. CHERRIER, USN, embarked.

CORPORAL spent the weekend in port and left on 9 May to provide services to VP aircraft. After another weekend in port she left for a week of type training and returned on 19 May to conduct a two week upkeep and prepare for Operation PINK LACE.

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 CORPORAL left for the exercise on 2 June and returned on 21 June.

Following two weeks of upkeep in New London and preparations for a change of command, CDR Richard S. ANDERSON, Jr., relieved CDR SIMPSON as Commanding Officer on 1 July. The month of July found CORPORAL at Earle, New Jersey for a brief port stop on the 5th and at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on the 8th for some minor minor repairs. She returned to New London on the 15th after another another short stop in Earle.

During the week of the 16th of July, CORPORAL provided extensive at sea training for a group of Chinese officers who were enrolled at the Submarine School. The weekend of 22-24 July was spent in New London. On 25 July CORPORAL went to sea with a group of prospective Commanding Officers while working with USS ARCHERFISH (SSN 678).

With only one day, the 30th, in port, CORPORAL again left for sea on the 31st to participate in ASW exercises and type training. On the way back to New London she ran the degaussing range at Newport. From 5 to 31 August CORPORAL was in upkeep preparing for the extensive NATO exercise, Exercise STRONG EXPRESS.

For the second time in under a year CORPORAL crossed the Atlantic eastbound - this time to the North Sea. She left on 1 September and commenced her part in STRONG EXPRESS on 12 September. The exercise ended on 26 September and on the 28th CORPORAL entered Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

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On 2 October CORPORAL left Amsterdam and transited to Portsmouth, England arriving on the next day. After two days in Portsmouth she commenced her ~~return~~ passage to New London arriving on 16 October. During the upkeep from 17 October to 5 November CORPORAL completed a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection and an interim drydocking in ARD-7.

On 6 November CORPORAL left the ARD and went straight to sea to provide services to the carrier INTREPID and several destroyers. The weekend of 17-18 November was spent in New London, but she was at sea again from 19-21 to conduct ASW training with a reserve destroyer from New York City.

CORPORAL was moored alongside in New London from 22-26 November. On the 27th she got underway with CDR J.G. FLETCHER, Commander Submarine Division TWENTY-ONE, aboard. An Operational Readiness Inspection was conducted on the way to and from Bermuda where the weekend was spent. CORPORAL returned to her homeport on 7 December. She was moored alongside for upkeep and holiday routine for the rest of the month.

During the year 1972, CORPORAL spent 203 days away from New London. She visited 15 different ports, consumed approximately 421,700 gallons of diesel fuel while covering nearly 26,000 miles. Also during the year she made 154 dives, bringing her 27 year total to 5639. Also, CORPORAL was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" for fiscal year 1972.

Enclosure (1)

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