

“...a most solemn and significant event”

January 21, 1954 lives in history as the launching day of the world's first atomic powered vessel, the submarine "Nautilus."

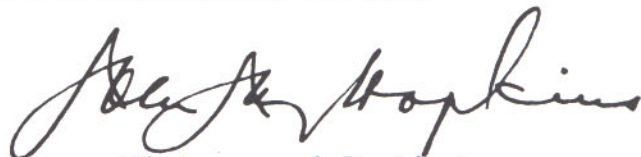
Powered by the silent, invisible, airless "burning" of nuclear fuel, the "Nautilus" will cruise submerged faster, farther, longer than any previous craft in history.

Some 30,000 persons gathered in the shipyard of our Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut, to witness this momentous occasion. That many came from great distances is a signal tribute to the scientists, engineers and craftsmen who worked to create this masterpiece of the shipbuilder's art.

We were particularly honored to have as our sponsor the First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Dwight David Eisenhower.

None of us who watched this unique and historic ship slide down the ways and into the waters of the Thames River could doubt that we were participants in a most solemn and significant event, not only of our time but of all time.

This brochure is designed to commemorate that event.



Chairman and President
General Dynamics Corporation







In Man's Behalf

The launching of the "Nautilus" is an historic achievement in man's continuing effort to make the atom work for him rather than against him.

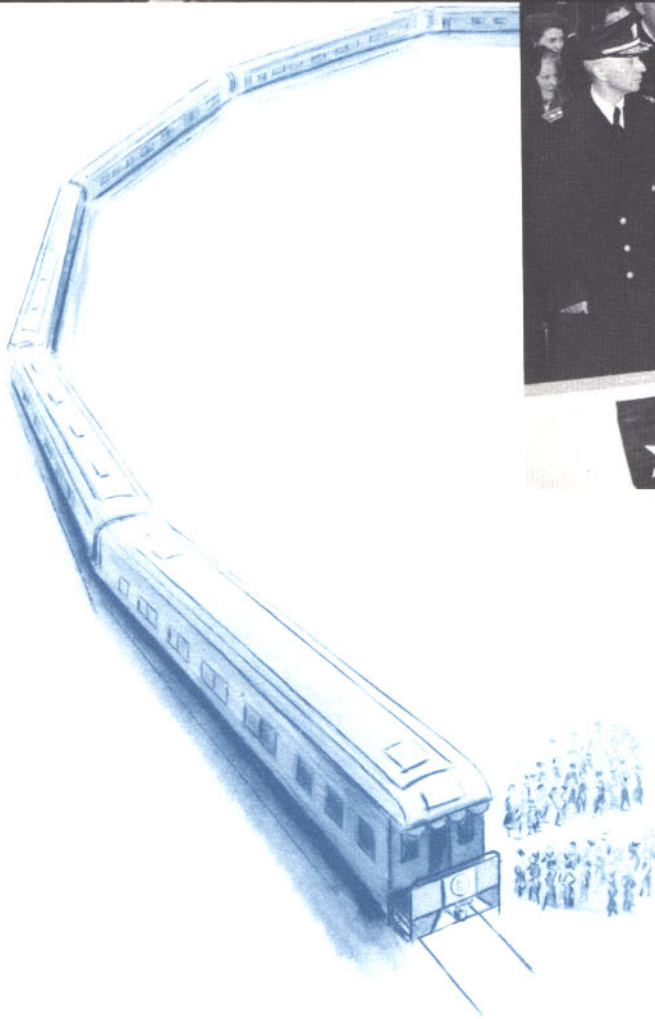
Nuclear propulsion is no longer dimly on the horizon of a distant future. It is here today, embodied in this great ship.

When the "Nautilus" moves to sea under her own power, the hopes and dreams of millions will move with her.

Into this historic vessel the United States Navy, the Atomic Energy Commission, General Dynamics Corporation, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation and hundreds of suppliers have poured the resources of their minds and skills.

The "Nautilus" will be listed in the annals of man as the first demonstration of his ability to curb the destructive force of the atom and to turn it in positive directions.

The Sponsor arrives



As the First Lady stepped down from her special train she was greeted by John Jay Hopkins, Chairman of the Board and President of General Dynamics, and by Governor John Lodge of Connecticut. From the train she was escorted by Mr. Hopkins to the platform to join other distinguished guests.

The Program



WELCOME

JOHN JAY HOPKINS

Chairman and President
General Dynamics Corporation

"We cannot—if we would survive—be less than first in research and discovery—be less than first in total power—whether that discovery and that power be military or industrial."



REMARKS

GWILYM A. PRICE

President, Westinghouse Electric Corporation

"The 'Nautilus' is a testimonial to the ability and determination of free men to act in the defense of human rights and dignity."



ADDRESS

ADMIRAL ROBERT B. CARNEY, USN

Chief of Naval Operations

"As an American I feel an intense pride in the vision, the brains, the ingenuity, the sweat, and the teamwork that went into the creating of the 'Nautilus'."



ADDRESS

LEWIS L. STRAUSS

Chairman, United States Atomic Energy Commission

"Today's historic event strengthens the means of security of all free nations . . . it gives new impetus to the peaceful potential of the atomic force which turns the engines of the 'Nautilus'."



BENEDICTION

REAR ADMIRAL EDWARD B. HARP, JR., ChC, USN

Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy

"As the 'Nautilus' goes down to the sea we commend her to Thy providence and care. . . . May the launching of this ship mark the beginning of a new day—a day when all the advances of science and the diffusion of knowledge will go toward the building of a better world."



*Best wishes to The Nautilus
Mamie Doud Eisenhower*

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Distinguished sponsor of the "Nautilus"
and first President's wife ever to christen
a submarine of the United States Navy.

"I christen thee Nautilus"

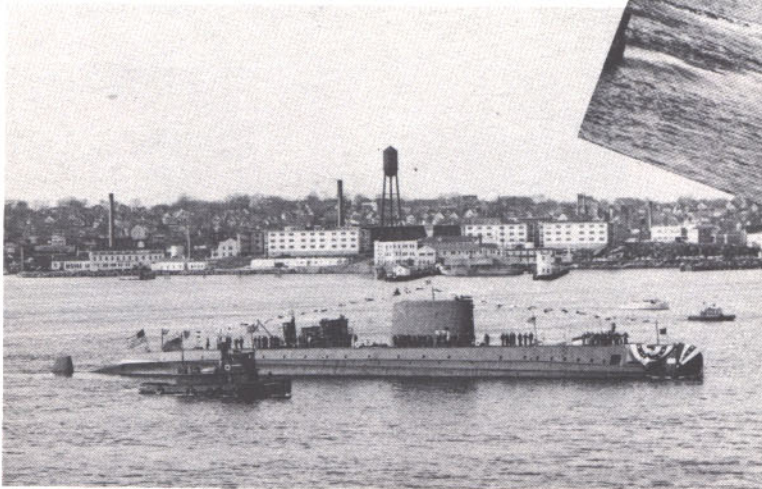
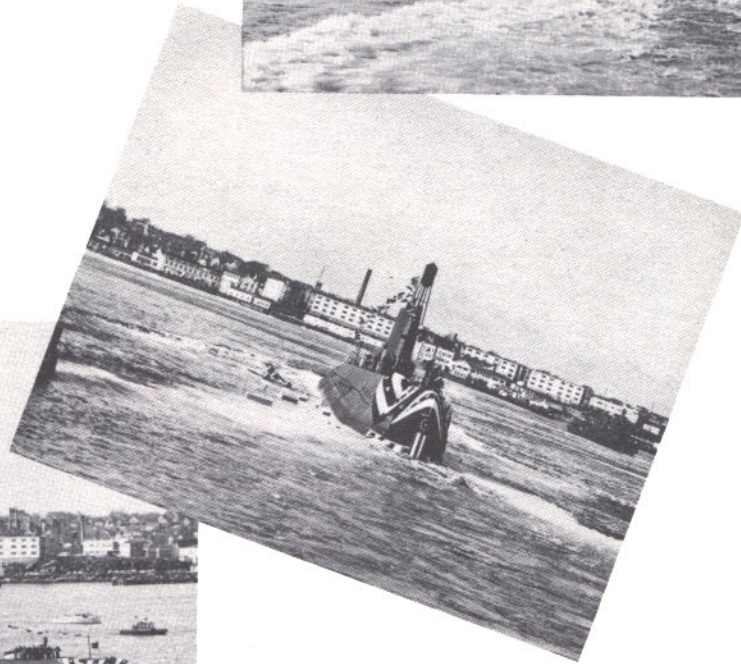
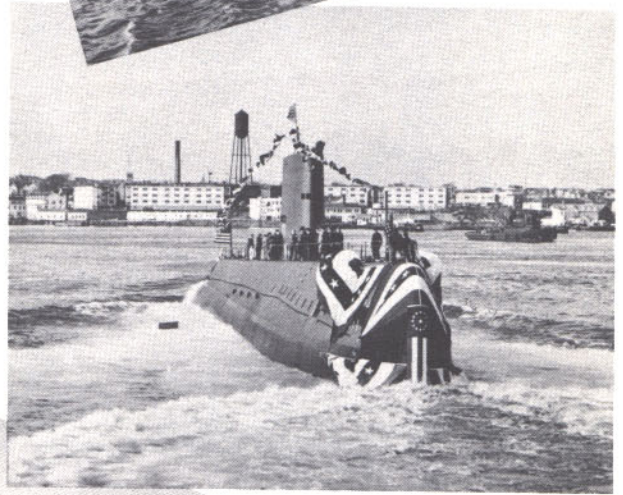
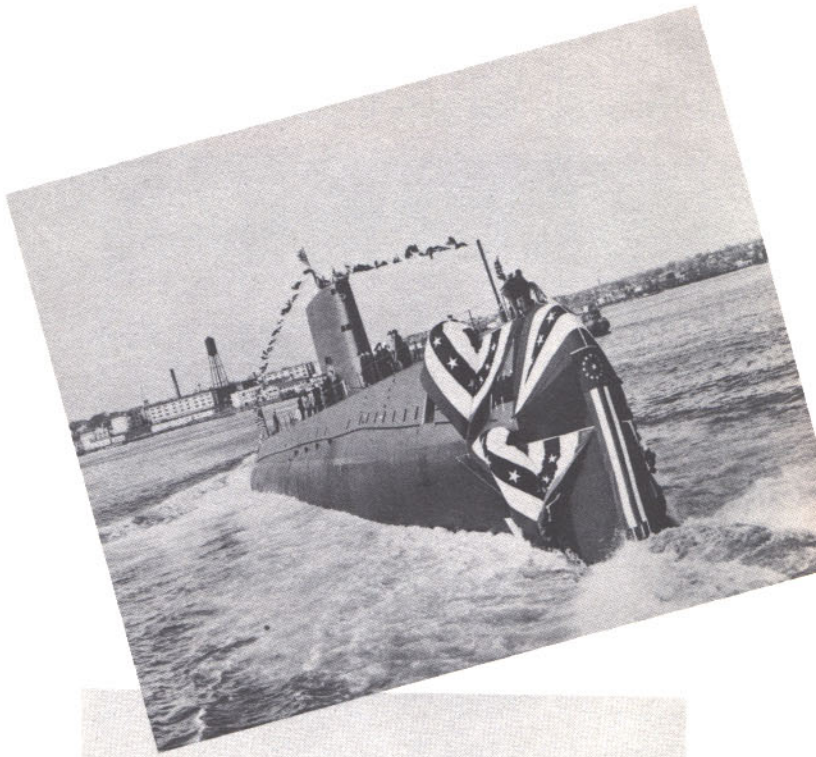




The Launching

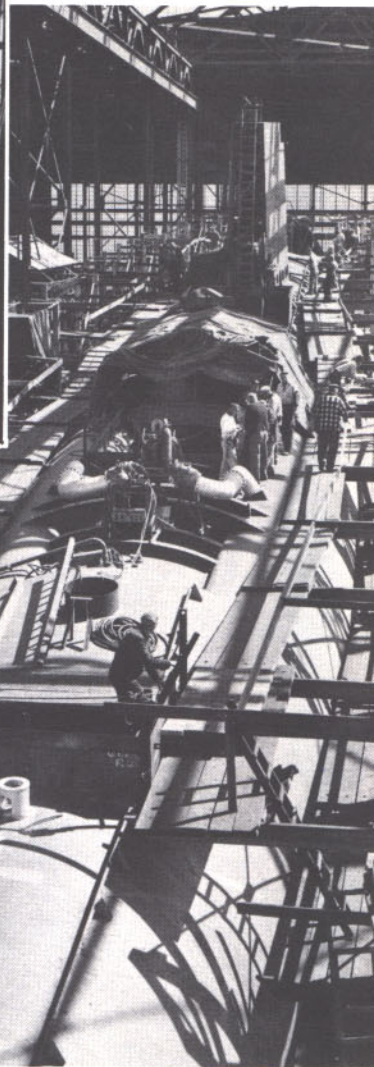
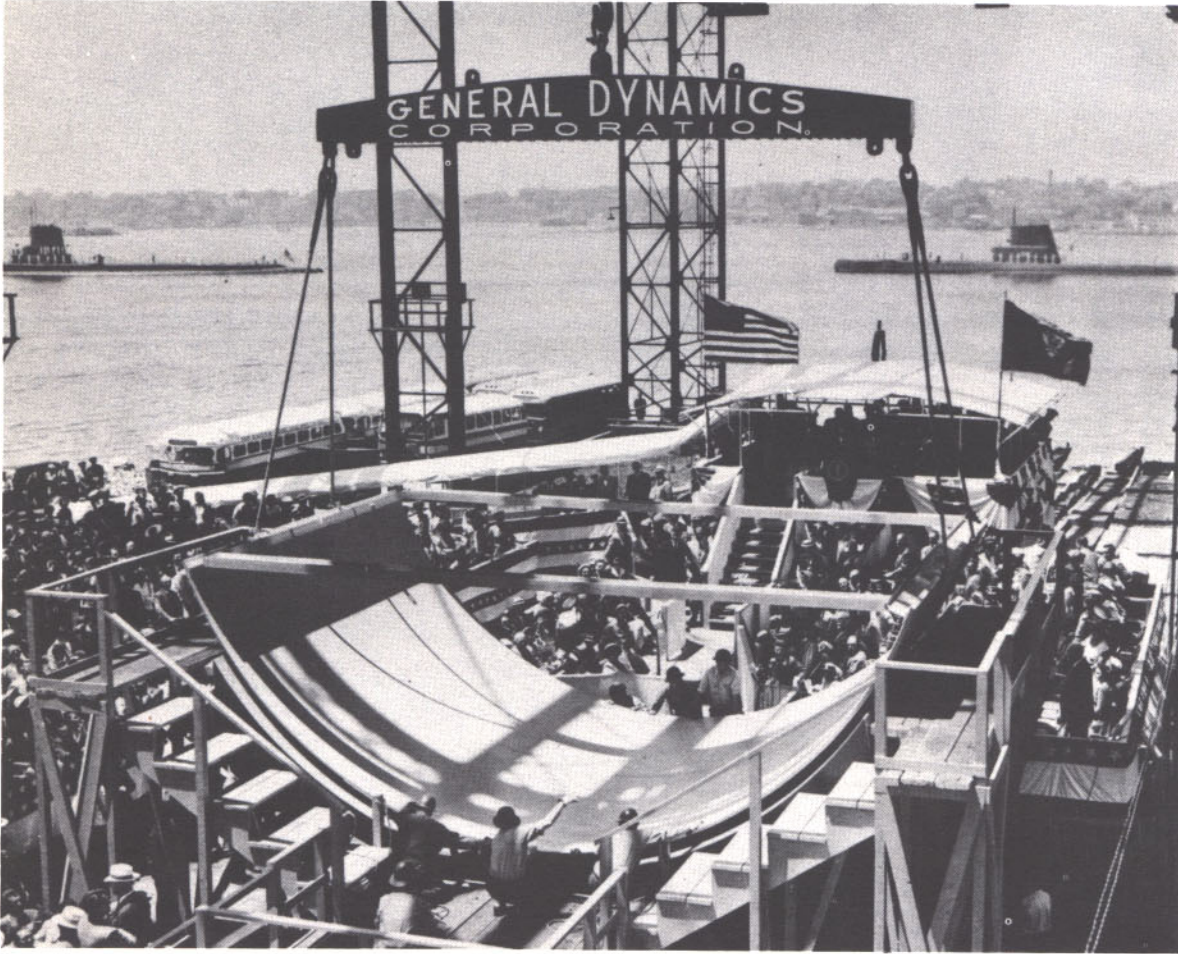
The "Nautilus" slipped down her launching ways and into the waters of the Thames at exactly 10:57 a. m.

Minutes before, as though it were a symbol, brilliant sunshine had suddenly broken through and dispelled a heavy fog which, since early morning, had shrouded the shipyard.



One Year,

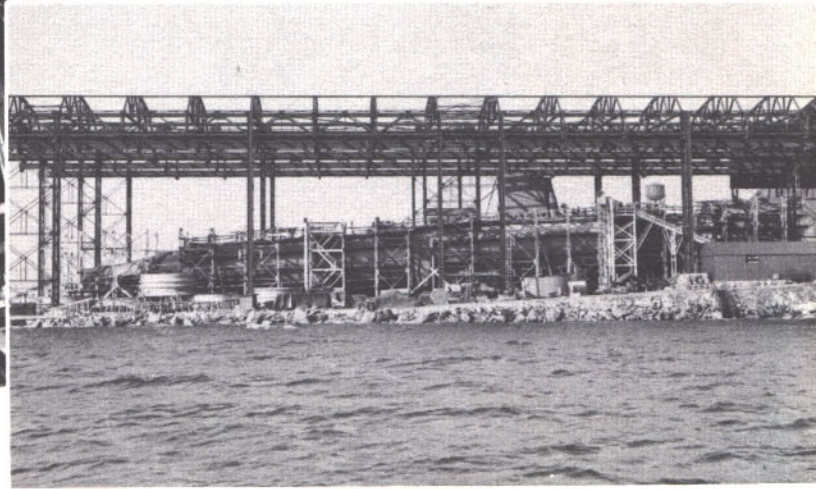
June 14, 1952—Her keel plate is laid.



Seven Months, Seven Days

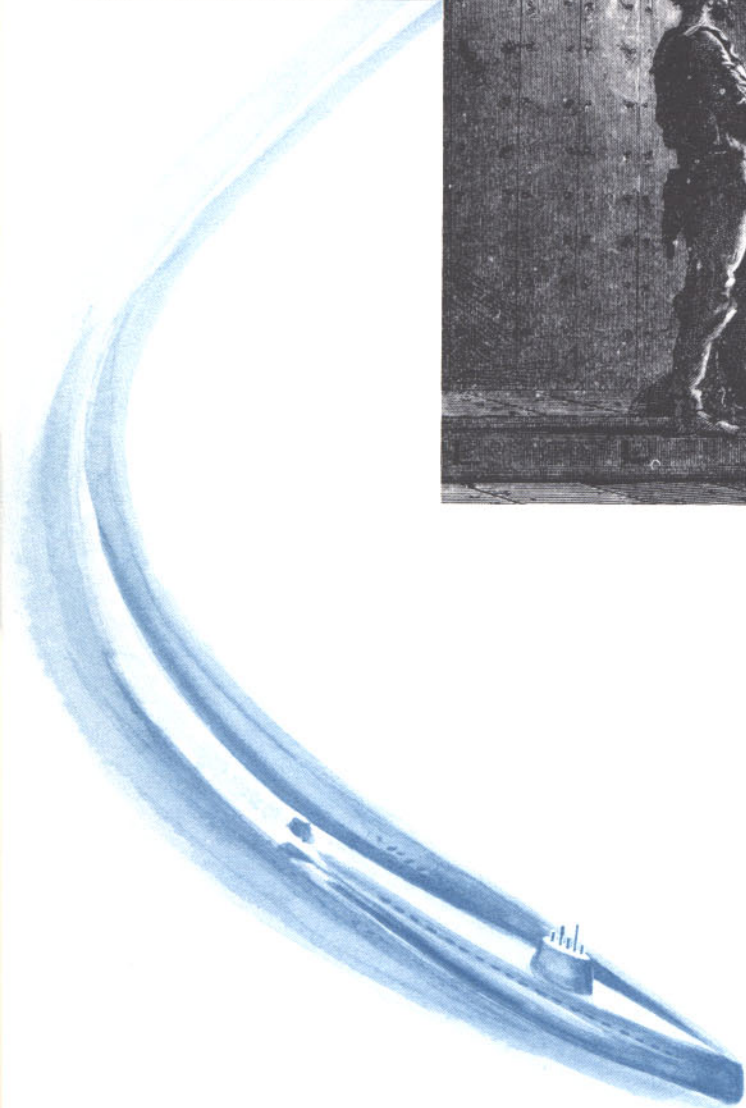
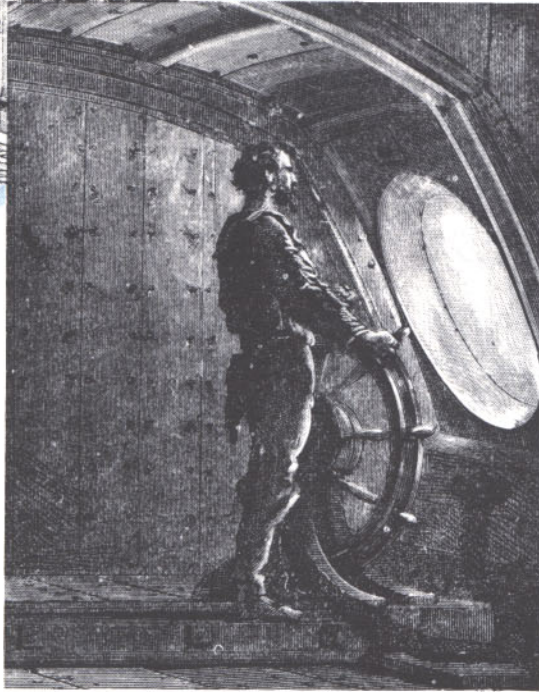
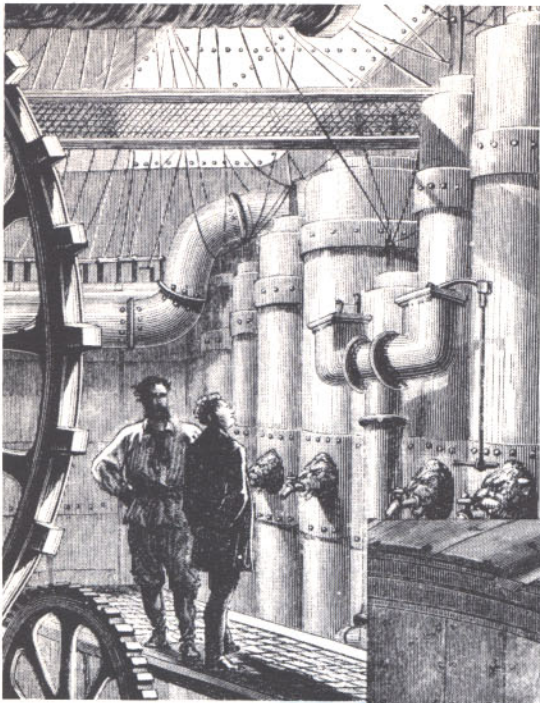


In the short span of one year, seven months and seven days, the job was done.



January 21, 1954 — She floats in t

Beyond the fancies of fiction



When Jules Verne wrote "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" in 1869 he imagined a true submersible which operated beneath the surface of the sea for indefinite periods, independent of the earth's surface and atmosphere. His ship he named "Nautilus" after the first practical submarine, one built by Robert Fulton in 1800. Now the sagacity and vision of the United States Navy, the Atomic Energy Commission and American industry have developed a ship which goes beyond even the fanciful creation of Jules Verne. Today's "Nautilus" opens the way to the world of the future.

GENERAL  **DYNAMICS**

DIVISIONS



GENERAL  **DYNAMICS**

DIVISIONS

