



CLAMAGORE [SS-343]

PatriotsPoint.org | (843) 884-2727 | 40 Patriots Point Road | Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

The Clamagore (SS-343) served proudly from 1945 until 1973, 28 years of service that saw the world change. Built in Groton, Connecticut, by Electric Boat Company, the vessel was launched on February 25, 1945, and commissioned on June 28, 1945, under the command of Commander Sam C. Loomis, Jr.

Clamagore's first assignment was to patrol off the coast of Florida, stationed in Key West, where the submarine earned the nickname, "Grey Ghost of the Florida Coast." Operating with various fleet units, Clamagore sailed to both Cuba and the Virgin Islands. The boat also operated with the Fleet Sonar School, where it was used to train service personnel in sonar technology and techniques of anti-submarine warfare, critical during the Cold War period.

The Clamagore underwent its first modernization to Guppy II (Greater Underwater Propulsion Power Program) configuration in 1948. The upgrade included expanded battery capacity, the addition of a snorkel, and an improved fire control system. Following the upgrade, the boat and crew resumed patrols in the Caribbean. The vessel mainly operated there through 1956, except for a 1953 deployment to the Mediterranean.

Between 1957 and 1959, Clamagore called on various ports, including Newport, Rhode Island, New London, Connecticut, and Key West. Taking part in NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, Clamagore called at Portsmouth, England and Naval Station Argentia, Newfoundland.

In 1959, Clamagore was stationed in her new homeport, Charleston, South Carolina. Sailing on April 5, 1960, the submarine joined the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean for a deployment that lasted until July. Afteward, boat and crew returned to Charleston and resumed operations on the East Coast.

In 1962 USS Clamagore was again modernized. This time to a GUPPY III configuration that included the addition of a 15-foot hull extension, advanced passive ranging sonar, and plastic sail. In February 1963, the boat was transferred to Submarine Squadron 2 in Groton, Connecticut.

The Clamagore was decommissioned by the Navy on June 12, 1973, after 28 years of service. The submarine was towed to Mount Pleasant, South Carolina in 1981 and opened to visitors as an exhibit at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum.