

U.S.S. Menhaden (SS 377)

Keel Laid - June 21, 1944

Launched - December 20, 1944

Commissioned - June 22, 1945

Sponsor - Miss Mirian R. Johnson - daughter of Congressman Nolle J. Johnson

The U.S.S. Darter (SS 227) was that ill fated submarine which permanently grounded while attempting to close and sink a cruiser already damaged by Darter. The crew was removed by a friendly submarine and later ordered to Manitowoc to place Menhaden in commission.

Menhaden departed Manitowoc on July 15, 1945. She traversed the Mississippi River, then south and thru the Panama Canal then to Pearl Harbor where she arrived on September 16, 1945. Menhaden was not destined to see action for the war ended while she was still in Panama.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, a former submarine Officer, to show his appreciation and esteem for the outstanding achievements accomplished by the submarine force, selected Menhaden as his flagship for a change of Command Ceremony, on November 24, 1945 the five star flag of Fleet Admiral Nimitz was broken and hauled down as command changed. Menhaden was taken out of commission at Mare Island Navy Yard on May 31, 1946. She was put into commission on August 7, 1951 and operated out of San Diego, California until August 13, 1952 when she was again placed out of commission. At this time Menhaden was streamlined and a snorkel was installed.

On March 6, 1953 the Menhaden once again broke the five star flag of Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz. The occasion was the ceremony that put the ship back into commission.

June 9, 1953 marked the date of Menhaden's first tour of duty in the Pacific. She operated out of San Diego before leaving for the far east where she was awarded the United Nations Medal and Korean Service Medal before returning to San Diego. On August 18, 1955 Menhaden left for her second Far Eastern Cruise where her operations led to the China Service Medal for services to Chinese Nationalist Navy Vessels in Formosa. She returned to San Diego on February 1956. In all Menhaden served five far eastern cruises and was on active duty with the United States Submarine Forces until 1971 when she was de-commissioned and placed in reserve.

U.S.S. Mero (SS 378)

Keel Laid - July 22, 1944

Launched - January 17, 1945

Commissioned - August 17, 1945

Sponsor - Mrs. Henry G. Taylor - Wife of Rear Admiral Taylor.

U.S.S. Mero was not destined to see action in the war against the Japanese. The Hardship and the glory, shared by many of her sister ships built in Manitowoc, was not to be hers. Hostilities had ceased before Mero was ready for her intended role.

Late in 1945 the U.S.S. Mero departed Manitowoc, on the same route taken by twenty seven other submarines built by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company. She was the last submarine which had to traverse the Mid-Western Waterways to reach New Orleans and the sea from the building yards at Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Although Mero never had a chance to serve her country in time of war she now proudly serves the Turkish people to whom she was transferred April 20, 1960. The U.S.S. Mero now sails under the name of T.C.G. Hizir Reis.