

# SARGO DEPARTS FOR ARCTIC CRUISE

When USS SARGO (SSN-583) departed Submarine Base on Monday morning, January 18th, it was the beginning of a trip that no other submarine in the U.S. Navy has ever attempted to take—operating in the Bering and Chukchi Seas during the winter months, while conducting Arctic under-ice explorations.

What will make this trip more significant than any others undertaken before it? Well, in the first place, during the winter months in the Arctic region there is no sunlight. Secondly, the bottom of the Bering and Chukchi Seas is very shallow, ranging in depths from 120 to 180 feet. Thirdly, Arctic ice has been known to be 100 feet thick at times, making underwater travel hazardous and not leaving much room to squeeze through, even for a submarine especially equipped for such operations.

Besides her regular crew aboard, USS SARGO is carrying a group of scientists, headed by Dr. Waldo K. Lyon, head of the Submarine and Arctic Research Branch of the Navy Electronics Laboratory at San Diego, California. The scientists will check ocean depths, take temperature and salinity measurements and record the underwater profile of the ice, besides "keeping their eye" on the specially installed sonar and other elec-

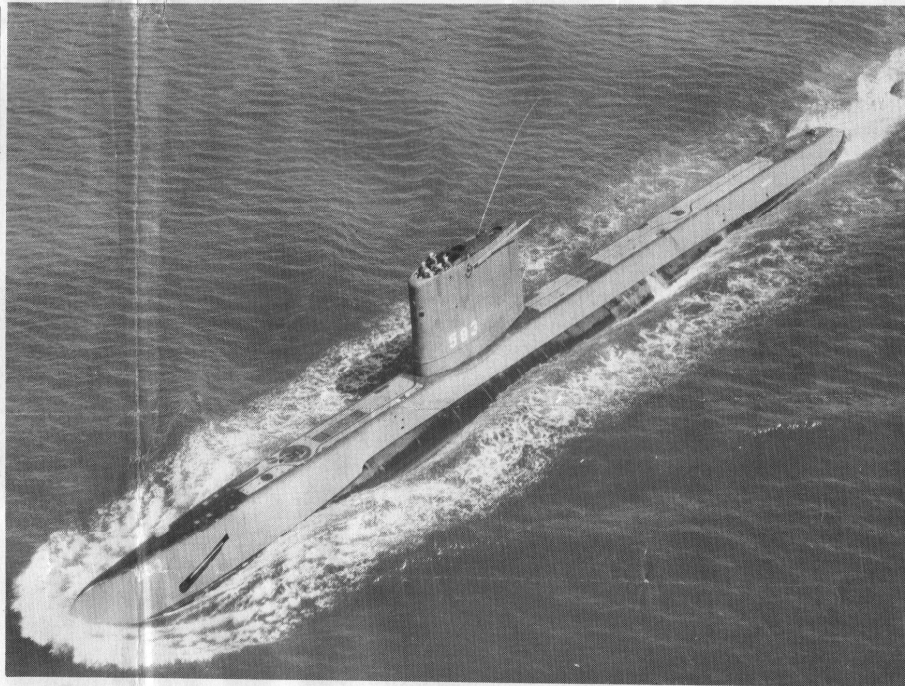
tronic gear in the atomic-powered submarine. The gear will aid the SARGO in locating thin spots in the ice so that she can push her way up through for on-the-surface observations.

LCDR John H. Nicholson, commanding officer of SARGO, is no newcomer to Arctic explorations. He served as Executive Officer and Navigator on USS SKATE (SSN-578) during the atomic submarine's first Polar voyage in the Arctic Ocean in August 1958 and was awarded the Commendation Ribbon with Pendant from the Secretary of the Navy for his "outstanding performance of duty" and "one of the finest navigational feats in modern naval history," for this historic cruise.

SARGO was many months preparing for this special operation. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard reinforced her sail for the purpose of pushing up through ice. Tons of food were stored aboard the submarine, taking into consideration the packing had to be just right for the cooks to get at the food in the proper order. Enough movies were stored aboard so that a new one could be shown every day during the cruise.

With the additional "cargo" plus the sonar and other special electronic gear, space aboard the submarine is at a premium.

(Continued on page 2)



**SARGO DEPARTS ON ARCTIC EXPLORATION—USS SARGO (SSN-583), commanded by LCDR J. H. Nicholson, departed Submarine Base on Monday, January 18th, for a cruise never before attempted by an American submarine, that of conducting underwater explorations in the Arctic region during the winter months. Aside from special sonar and other electronic gear installed on board, SARGO has a group of scientists along to take down valuable data of the history-making cruise.**

## SARGO Departs

(Continued from page 1)

By the time the nuclear submarine returns to Pearl Harbor, countless unanswered questions about the vast Arctic region will be solved. The submarine service will have again accepted the challenge and have answered it with "history."