



WELCOME HOME --- USS SARGO (SSN-583) moors to Sierra 1, Submarine Base upon her return from Arctic explorations and historic cruise to the North Pole. On hand to greet her are hundreds of crewmembers' dependents, friends, and newsmen. Under the command of LCDR J. H. Nicholson, SARGO conducted the first Arctic explorations in the winter months.

SARGO WELCOMED HOME

The nuclear powered submarine USS SARFO (SSN-583) returned to Pearl Harbor Thursday morning, March 3, after a history making Arctic cruise amid a flurry of flowers dropped from helicopters as the blaring whistles of all the ships in Pearl Harbor welcomed her arrival.

The families of the crew and hundreds of other people lined the dock to welcome the submarine home. SARGO had been operating in the Arctic Basin cruising over 6000 miles under the Polar ice cap and surfaced at the North Pole. The atomic submarine collected valuable oceanographic data in an effort to learn more about the physical structure of the ocean floor and about sea and ice conditions.

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The SARGO showed only minor external damage after her ordeal with the rugged Arctic ice. During her trip she smashed through ice on 20 different occasions. On 16 of these surfacings she was unable to find breaks in the ice and had to punch her way through ice as much as three feet thick.

Immediately after docking, Rear Admiral William E. Ferrall, ComSubPac, "on behalf of the President of the United States," presented the submarine's commanding officer, LCDR John H. Nicholson of 474 Stow Ave., Oakland, California, the Legion of Merit.

LCDR Nicholson's award was for "successfully completing the most extensive under-ice exploration of the Arctic Ocean yet attempted, including the first entry into and exit from the Arctic Basin via the Bering Strait during the winter season." The citation went on to say that "the severe weather and ice conditions encountered throughout the cruise were overcome by Nicholson's superb seamanship, technical competence and command judgment."

Rear Admiral Ferrall also presented SARGO and her gallant crew with the Navy Unit Commendation.

The citation accompanying the award for the ship and crew said "All scientific and operational objectives of the cruise were skillfully accomplished, resulting in the accumulation of knowledge and technical data of great value to the United States. The efficient teamwork and devotion to duty of the SARGO's officers, crew and embarked civilian technicians were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval service and the spirit of true scientific endeavor."

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, said he "considered the exploits of the SARGO a vital and most difficult step toward opening the fabled Northwest Passage for all season use by our nuclear submarines, and year around inter-ocean access through the Arctic Basin is now a demonstrated capability."

a tribute to the 52 submarines and