USS Triton Sail Park

Operation Sandblast

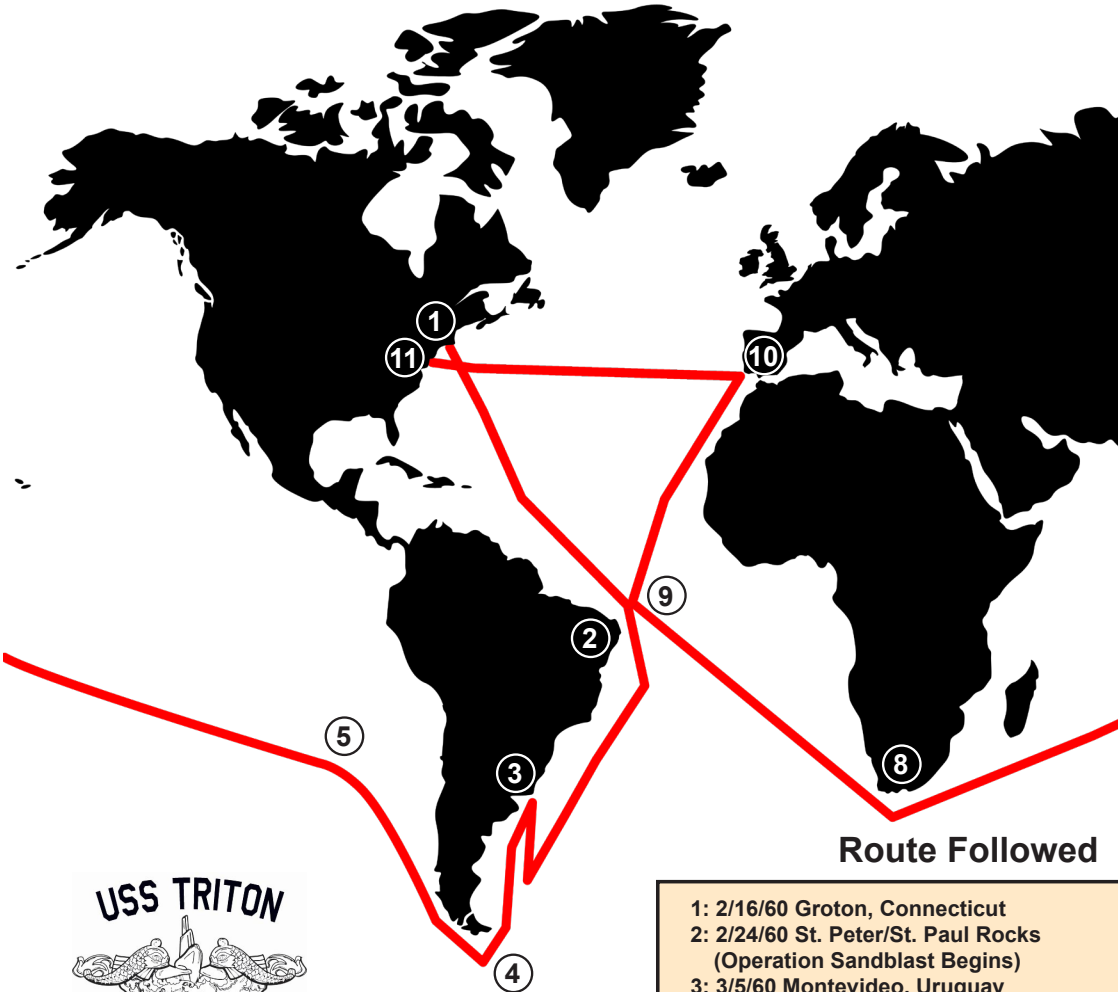
February 24 - April 25, 1960

Triton's Top-Secret Mission:
First Undersea Expedition Around the Globe

First Submerged Circumnavigation of the World

On February 4, 1960, the Pentagon gave secret orders that USS Triton (SSRN 586) would become the first to circle the globe underwater. Code named Operation Sandblast, Triton would follow the path of explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who set sail from Spain in 1519 with five ships on the earliest surface expedition around the world.

The top-secret U.S. Navy mission would prove American military and technological dominance during the Cold War.



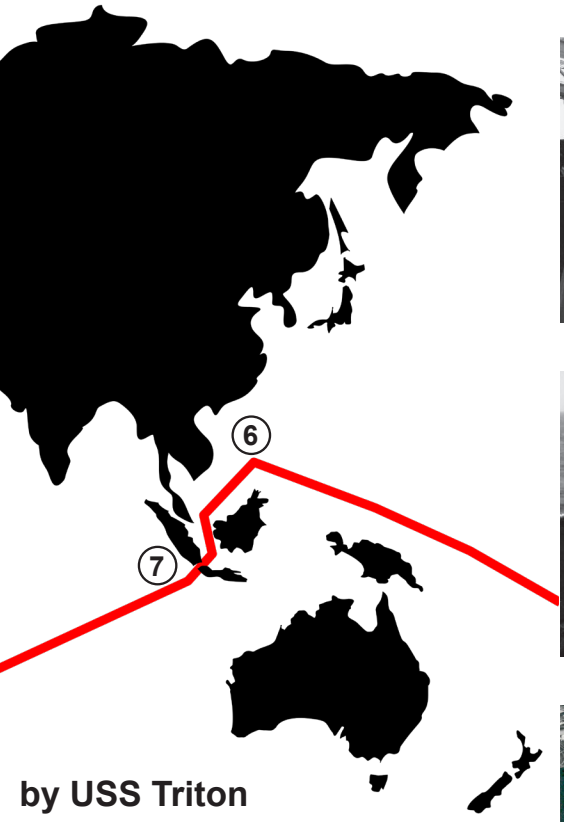
USS TRITON
SSRN 586

Route Followed

1: 2/16/60 Groton, Connecticut
2: 2/24/60 St. Peter/St. Paul Rocks (Operation Sandblast Begins)
3: 3/5/60 Montevideo, Uruguay
4: 3/7/60 Cape Horn, Argentina
5: 3/13/60 Easter Islands
6: 3/28/60 Agat, Guam

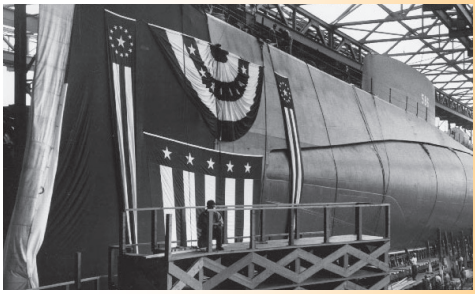
Triton's design was innovative and equipped with advanced electronic surveillance and communications technologies. The 176-member crew would demonstrate the capabilities of the first generation of nuclear-powered submarines for long-range submerged operations without being detected. Eight scientific and technical personnel would conduct research and gather unprecedented oceanographic, geophysical and psychological data.

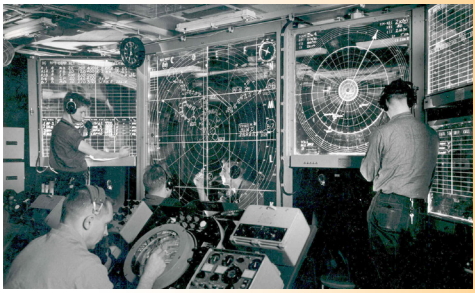
Triton left its home berth in Groton, Connecticut, for sea on February 16 and submerged for the voyage. The submarine reached Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean on February 24, the beginning and endpoint of Operation Sandblast.



by USS Triton

7: 4/1/60 Philippines
8: 4/17/60 Cape of Good Hope
9: 4/25/60 St. Peter/St. Paul Rocks
(Operation Sandblast Ends)
10: 5/2/60 Cadiz, Spain
11: 5/10/60 Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

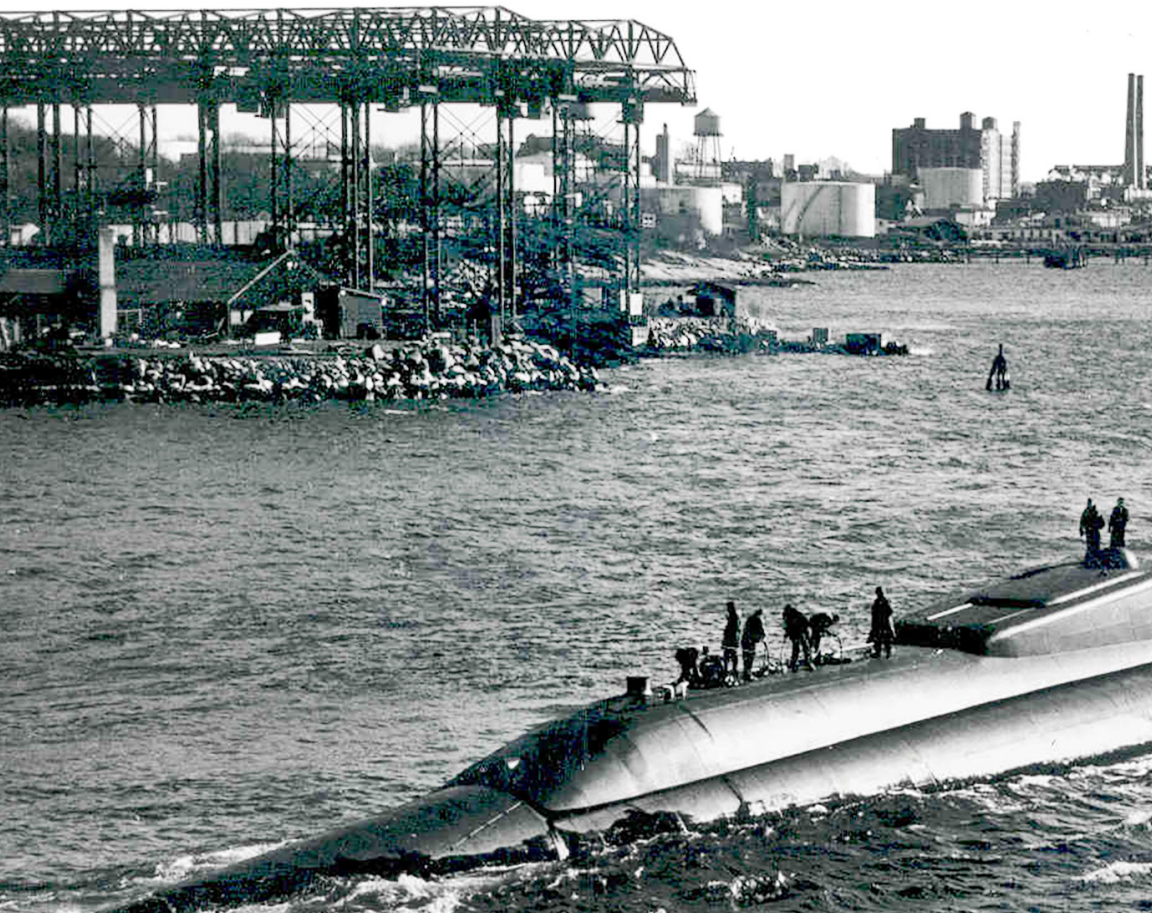




Operation Sandblast Highlights

Submerged Circumnavigation: February 24 – April 25, 1960
Duration: 60 Days, 21 Hours
Nautical Miles: 26,723 (30,752 Miles, 49,491 Kilometers)
Average Speed: 18 Knots (21 Miles Per Hour, 33 Kilometers Per Hour)
Aboard During Operation Sandblast:
Officers, Chief Petty Officers & Enlisted: 176
Technical & Scientific Personnel: 8

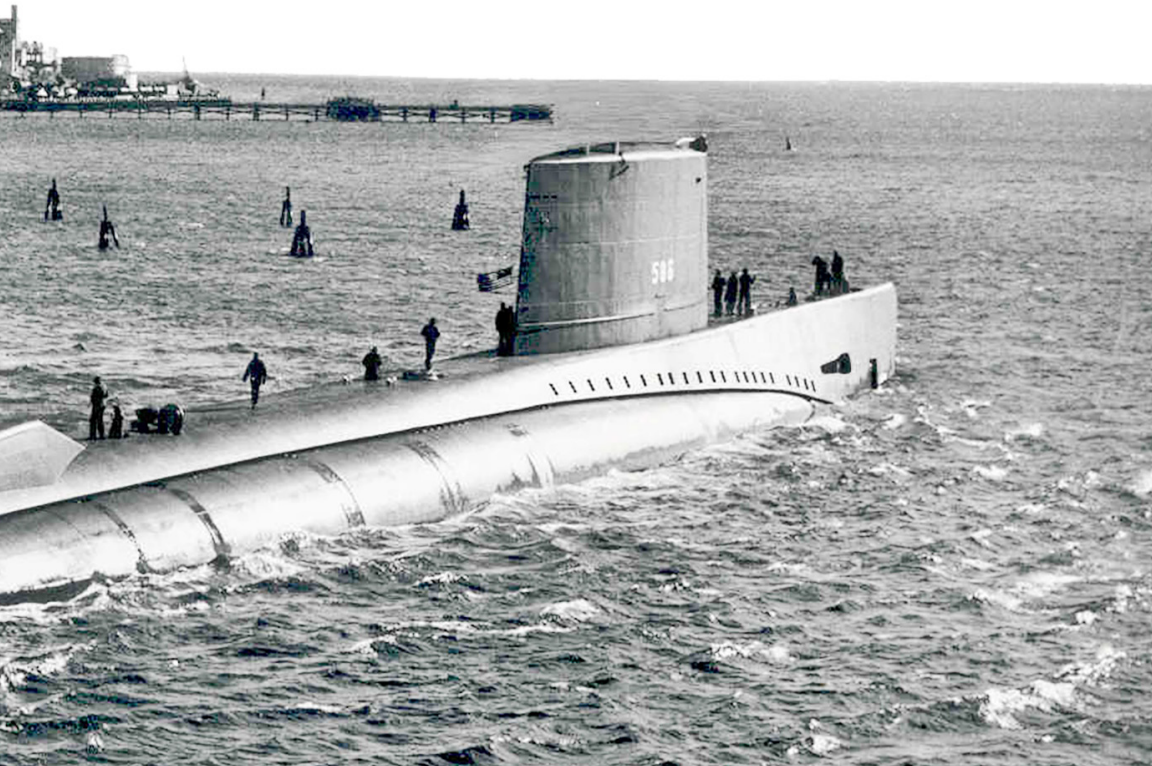
Equator Crossings:
February 24, 1960 – Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks, mid-Atlantic Ocean (longitude 29° 32.8′ West) at 2004
March 19, 1960 – Mid-Pacific Ocean (longitude 155° 54.8′ West) at 2230
April 3, 1960 – Makassar Strait (longitude 119° 05.1′ East) at 1422
April 25, 1960 – Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks, mid-Atlantic Ocean (longitude 28° 03′ West) at 0754



Capt. Edward L. Beach

Excerpt From March 16, 1960,
Letter to Commander
William M. A. Green

"We submerged off New London on the 16th of February, and since then our grand TRITON has been purring along without complaint on what I believe to be the longest sustained speed-run ever attempted by any ship, submarine or otherwise. Only a nuclear-powered submarine could have contemplated it."



USS Triton Characteristics

Length: 447.5 Feet (136.4 Meters)
The longest and most powerful submarine of its day.

Displacement: 5,662 Tons (5,136 Metric Tons) Surfaced; 8,500 Tons (7,711 Metric Tons) Submerged

Breadth Extreme (Beam): 37 Feet (11.3 Meters)

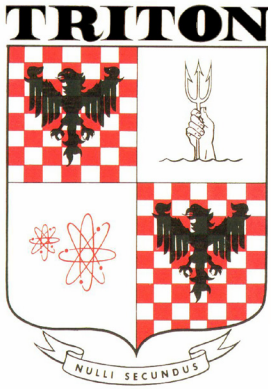
Draft: 23.6 Feet (7.2 Meters)

Decks: 3 (Plus the Conning Tower)

Reactors: 2 (S4G Pressurized-Water Nuclear Reactors)
Triton was the first, and only, U.S. submarine with dual reactors – direct descendants of Hanford's reactors.

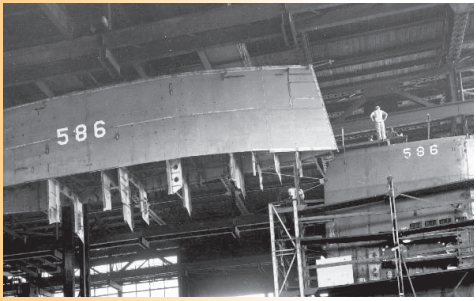
Sail: 75-Feet-Long and 20-Feet-Tall (22.9-Meters-Long, 6.1-Meters-Tall)
The largest sail ever on a U.S. submarine.

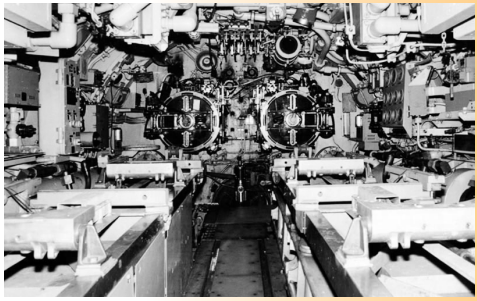
Conning Tower: Small water-tight compartment built into the sail above the control room to protect critical equipment and command crew during a battle. Triton was the last U.S. submarine to have a conning tower.

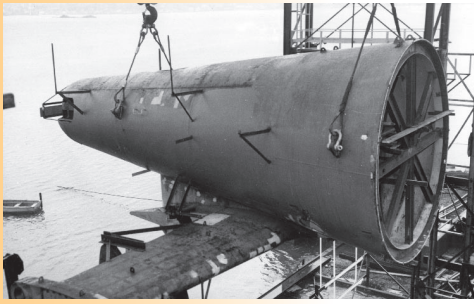


History

Keel Laid: May 29, 1956
Launched: August 19, 1958
Commissioned: November 10, 1959
Decommissioned: May 3, 1969


586
586






USS TRITON SSRN
GENERAL


586

USS Triton Sail Park & Tours

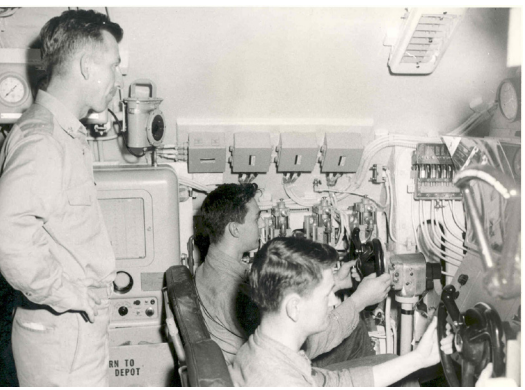
The Port of Benton worked with the U.S. Navy to preserve Triton's sail and conning tower, now on display in Richland, Washington.

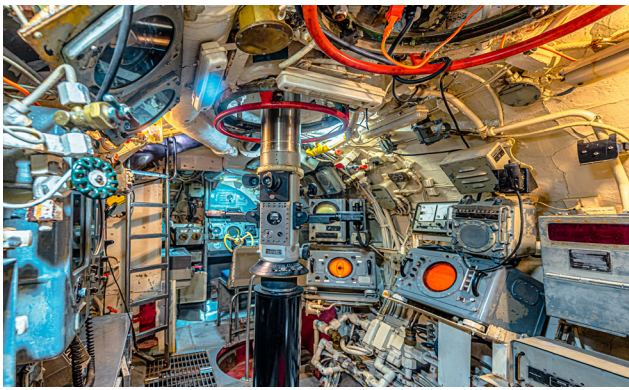
The USS Triton Sail Park overlooks the Port's barge slip and high-dock facility on the Columbia River. The location is symbolic because the dock is where the Navy transfers nuclear reactor cores from decommissioned vessels (including Triton) onshore for delivery to the nearby Hanford Site for permanent storage.

Visit the park's public spaces or contact the Port for a tour inside Triton's conning tower, where the original instrumentation is still in place.

Visit the Port's website to learn more and for tour information.

PortofBenton.com/Triton
3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington





PORT OF BENTON

April 2022

USS Triton Sail and Conning Tower Provided Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command, Catalog No. 2008-44-2