

News of Navy Ships

It's been a long time—nearly nine years, in fact—since a *Boston* has been on active duty with the Fleet, but the former CA 69 is now being fitted out for duty as CAG 1, the Navy's first guided missile cruiser (ALL HANDS, December 1955, p. 59). Meanwhile, *us Canberra*, a *Baltimore*-class sister of *Boston*, is expected to be recommissioned as CAG 2 in the spring. Formerly the CA 70, *Canberra* will be the Navy's second combat ship capable of firing supersonic anti-aircraft missiles.

In the "bigger" Navy, one of the few active battleships, *us Wisconsin* (BB 64), is completing a four-month period of routine overhaul at New York Naval Shipyard (including new barrels for her nine 16-inch guns); while the "Fighting Lady," *us Yorktown* (CVA 10), has rejoined the Fleet after a "face lifting" at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Other conversions and recommissionings include:

- *us Lowe* (DER 325), a newly-converted radar picket escort destroyer which has been recommissioned at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. *Lowe* was first commissioned in Orange, Texas, in 1943. Later decommissioned she was reactivated by the Coast Guard in 1951 at Green Cove Springs, Fla., and served as an ocean weather station ship. Placed in the Reserve Fleet again in December 1953, this time at Long Beach, Calif., *Lowe* began conversion for her new duties last fall. The new DER is scheduled for duty in the Pacific Northwest as part of Escort Squadron Five.

- Another 1943-vintage destroyer escort, *us VanDiver* (DER 540), has also been recommissioned as a DER, this one at Boston Naval Shipyard. *VanDiver* was built and launched at Boston in 1943, but the 306-footer was suspended with the end of World War II and she was



EASY DOES IT—Submerged *Sealion* leaves combat-equipped Marines floating in rubber boats on surface.

"mothballed" without being commissioned. Work on the 1643-ton vessel was resumed in 1954. *us VanDier* has the distinction of being the Navy's only steam-propelled radar picket, all other DERs having either diesel or turbo-electric drive systems. This innovation, part of the Navy's continuing program of experimentation with various types of propulsion, has increased the vessel's speed at least five knots.

- Two other radar picket conversions have been slated for the Long Beach yard. They are *us Forster* (DE 334) and *us Lansing* (DE 338).

- *us Barbero* (SSG 317), just recommissioned at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, is the second submarine to be converted to guided missile status. She is scheduled to join the Atlantic Fleet next spring after extensive training in the Pacific.

Appropriate sponsors were found for three more additions to the Fleet:

- *us Suribachi* (AE 21), named for Iwo Jima's volcanic mount where the Marines planted that flag, has been christened by Mrs. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., wife of the former USMC commandant. With an overall length of 312 feet and a beam of 72 feet, *Suribachi* has a cargo capa-

city of 7500 tons and can service ships from both sides simultaneously. She is the first of her class.

- *us Barry* (DD 993), launched at Bath, Me., was christened by a great-grandniece of Commodore John Barry, Revolutionary War hero for whom the vessel is named. *Barry* is third in the *Forrest Sherman*-class of destroyers.

- *us Courtney* (DE 1021), a 1930-ton escort vessel launched at Bay City, Mich., was christened by the mother of Major Henry A. Courtney Jr., USMC, Medal of Honor winner for whom the vessel is named. *Courtney* is the fifth vessel of the *Dealey* class to be launched.

- *us Harris County* (LST 822) has joined the reserve fleet ranks at Seattle after 11 years of action ranging from the invasion of Okinawa to Operation Dewline, the resupply mission to the nation's arctic radar defense stations.

- *us Mahan County* (LST 912), veteran of landings from Morotai to Lingayen, and *us Monmouth County* (LST 1032) have been given into custody of Sub Group Four, Florida Group, Atlantic Reserve Fleet.

- *us Pochard* (MSF 375), *Quail* (MSF 377) and *us Swan* (MSCO 37), minesweepers built in 1944 and rushed to duty in the Pacific; the landing craft repair ship *us Minos* (ARL 14) and *us PCE 842* have all joined the gray ranks of the "moth ball fleet" in Florida.

- *us Archerfish* (SS 311), veteran of seven Pacific war patrols, has been turned over to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at New London, Conn. *Archerfish*, during her fifth patrol, is credited with sinking the biggest warship then afloat—the brand new Japanese aircraft carrier *Shinano*. During her WW II patrols *Archerfish* steamed some 75,000 miles, made over 900 dives and sank or damaged approximately 92,750 tons.

'GOING DOWN' — *USS Sealion* (ASSP 315) starts to submerge to float recon party of Marines off her deck.

