

Conversion to Guppy II. On December 6, 1948, the *Cobbler* entered the yards of the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Connecticut, for conversion to a streamlined Guppy II type submarine. The Guppy conversion included a new streamlined superstructure, a new high capacity battery, and a snorkel system for Greater Underwater Propulsion Power (Guppy). This conversion was completed August 17, 1949, and on the 27th of the same month the submarine reported to Submarine Squadron SIX at Norfolk, Va., for duty.

During the next five years, *Cobbler* participated in most of the Atlantic Fleet Exercises involving submarines. In July of 1954, she was again modernized by further battery improvements. Following her yard period in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, *Cobbler* was active in Submarine Squadron SIX operations, including a “first” for sailing up the James River to Richmond, Virginia, for Armed forces day. She also participated in the International Naval Review in June 1957. Off the New Jersey coast on 7 August 1957, *Cobbler* and the *Tusk* (SS426) collided underwater while conducting operations – neither submarine suffered un-repairable damage.



USS Cobbler – 1949

Subsequently, *Cobbler* served with the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean during the winter of 1957-58, and took part in many fleet exercises including Operation Springboard in 1955, 1957, and 1959.

Conversion to Guppy III. In January 1962, *Cobbler* entered Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where she began an extensive conversion to a Guppy III type submarine. This conversion consisted of lengthening the hull by fifteen feet to an overall length of 325 feet to



provide room for new electronics installations as well as additional crew’s berthing space. Upon completion of the conversion in October 1962, *Cobbler* became a unit of Submarine Squadron TWO in New London, Connecticut. In October 1963, *Cobbler* deployed again with the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean, taking part in numerous ASW operations including a combined ASW exercise with units of the French, British, and Turkish navies. During the Mediterranean tour, *Cobbler*

visited Barcelona, Spain;

USS *Cobbler* – 1963

Toulon, France; Naples, Italy; Iraklion, Crete; Athens, Greece; Catania, Sicily; Palermo, Sicily; Valletta, Malta; Port Mahon, Menorca; Gibraltar; and Rota, Spain. In Iraklion, Archbishop Eugenios of Crete paid a visit to the *Cobbler*, and members of *Cobbler's* crew painted the interior of a summer camp for orphans sponsored by the Archbishop. In August *Cobbler* participated in Fleet Exercise Transex 1-63, an ASW Barrier Exercise. *Cobbler* visited Bermuda, BWI, on two consecutive weekends in October while conducting sonar calibration operations. An operational visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia in December was made while providing services to the U.S. Naval Submarine School.

In early February 1964, *Cobbler* commenced an extensive at-sea period in the North Atlantic, conducting special operations and making a visit to Holy Loch, Scotland returning to New London in April. In May, *Cobbler* conducted routine type training, and visited Boston, Massachusetts, where she provided underway training for the Boston Submarine Reserve Division. In July, *Cobbler* became the first conventional submarine to pass a Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection. *Cobbler* left New London in early September to conduct operations for Submarine Development Group TWO. An operational visit to Bermuda was made during this period.

During January 1965, *Cobbler* again participated in Operation Springboard, and upon her return, made preparations for entering Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for routine overhaul there. Upon completion of the overhaul, *Cobbler* returned to New London.

During the first quarter of 1966, *Cobbler* conducted routine local operations followed by an upkeep period in New London ending in early May. On 11 May *Cobbler* departed New London on special operations, returning to New London in July. After local ops during the remainder of the summer and early fall, *Cobbler* participated in two submarine ASW exercises for Commander Submarine Development Group TWO and two periods of services to Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force. During 1966, *Cobbler* spent a total of 161 full days at sea, 70 days of which were submerged. Twenty-seven exercise torpedoes were fired for training and approximately 750 visitors toured the boat.

Cobbler deployed to the SIXTH Fleet in January 1967. While in the Mediterranean, *Cobbler* visited Rota, Ibiza and Cadiz, Spain; Palermo, Brindisi, Naples and Taranto, Italy; Athens, Greece and Valletta, Malta. *Cobbler* returned to New London in late April. This was followed by upkeep periods and local operations through August. On 24 August, *Cobbler* left for Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for a battery renewal. In November, *Cobbler* participated in a joint Canadian-US exercise returning to New London. Following the exercise *Cobbler* visited Halifax, Nova Scotia. During 1967, *Cobbler* spent a total of 168 days at sea and traveled approximately 26,000 miles. Fourteen exercise torpedoes were fired for training.

In February 1968 *Cobbler* commenced her fourth overhaul at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. The overhaul was completed two days prior to the scheduled completion date. After successful sea trials and a trip to Norfolk, Virginia for degaussing, *Cobbler* returned to New London in early August. The remainder of August and all of September were occupied with extensive training of the crew and grooming of equipment. On 1 October, *Cobbler* departed New London for Weapons System Accuracy Trials (WSAT) in the Caribbean. While in the Caribbean, *Cobbler* conducted an amphibious landing with a unit of the Army's Special Forces and visited San Juan and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix. Upon returning to the continental United States, *Cobbler* made a two-day port visit to New York City before returning to New London for upkeep.

In January 1969, *Cobbler* headed again to the Caribbean and Operation Springboard where she operated from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and visited St Thomas, Virgin Islands. Back in New London, a dependents cruise was held on 27 March. On 31 March, *Cobbler* departed New London for Operation Quiet Sentinel, a NATO ASW exercise conducted in the Eastern Atlantic. While participating in Quiet Sentinel, all hands were ceremoniously initiated into the "Royal Order of Bluenoses" when *Cobbler* crossed the Arctic Circle on May 1. Prior to the start of the

exercise, *Cobbler* visited Gosport, England, and following the exercise, *Cobbler* transited to Londonderry, Northern Ireland, for a port visit. After returning home, local operations followed and on 7 July, *Cobbler* departed for the Atlantic Sub-Surface Ocean Areas (SSOAs) and participation in Subaswex 2-69. Upon completion of the exercise, *Cobbler* made a three day port visit to Bermuda. In September, *Cobbler* exchanged weapons at Naval Ammunition Depot, Earle, New Jersey, prior to transiting to New York City for a weekend port visit. During the Earle to New York transit, seven nurses, recruited from the third Naval District, were commissioned as Nurse Corps Officers as the ship passed the Statue of Liberty.

In early January 1970, *Cobbler* again reported to the SIXTH Fleet. During this deployment, *Cobbler* made port visits to Lisbon, Portugal; Rota, Spain, Catania, Sicily; Valletta, Malta; Patras, Greece; Taranto, Italy; Athens, Greece; Iraklion, Crete; Naples, Italy; and Palma de Mallorca. After her return in May, she conducted upkeep and local operations until departing for the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis to conduct submarine training for the midshipmen during July. *Cobbler* celebrated her 25th Anniversary in New London on 8 August 1970 with 7,719 dives recorded in her diving log. Local operations were conducted until late October, when *Cobbler* participated in Operation Eyebolt. Later in November, she had an Operational Readiness Inspection while enroute to a port visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

From January until June 1971, *Cobbler* again was in the Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia for a regular overhaul. The work package included the removal of two main generators for their six-year overhaul and the overhaul of the four main engine blowers. A new Guppy battery was installed and extensive sonar transducer and hydrophone replacements were made. *Cobbler* received a habitability package that included a refurbished crew's berthing area with new lockers, pan bunks, privacy screens, and built in bunk lights. The overhaul was completed two days ahead of schedule. Operations for the remainder of 1971 involved crew training and grooming of the sensor systems in addition to providing ASW services to other ships and submarines of the Atlantic Fleet.

The first 6 weeks of 1972 were a pre-deployment upkeep period for *Cobbler*. In February, *Cobbler* departed New London for Rota, Spain. During the five month Mediterranean deployment, *Cobbler* participated in exercises Dawn Patrol, Easy Life and Armada '72 and visited Augusta Bay, Sicily; Athens, Greece; Soudha Bay, Crete; returning to Athens, Greece; then Izmir, Turkey; Corfu, Greece; Naples, Italy; Cartagena, Spain and Palma de Mallorca. *Cobbler* arrived back in New London on 3 July. In August, *Cobbler* began 18 days of operations with a visit to Annapolis, Maryland. *Cobbler* participated in NATO exercise Strong Express during September with an operational visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia. *Cobbler* returned to New London on 22 October and conducted holiday leave and upkeep there from 6-31 December.

On 9 January 1973, *Cobbler* departed New London for Roosevelt Roads and Operation Springboard '73. A port visit was made to San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Cobbler* returned to New London on 28 February for an upkeep period the month of March and local operations in April. On 30 May, *Cobbler* departed New London for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to provide services to aircraft and destroyers during daily operations out of GTMO. Port visits were made to Port Au Prince, Haiti and to Cap Haitian, Haiti. After a weapons exchange at Naval Ammunition Depot, Earle, New Jersey, *Cobbler* transited through New York City and Long Island Sound arriving home on 5 July. In August, *Cobbler* departed for her final at-sea operations for type-training and a port visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia. In September, *Cobbler* went to stand-down in preparation for decommissioning and transfer to Turkey.

***Cobbler* Decommissioned.** On the 11th and 12th of October, *Cobbler* got underway for demonstration dives and subsequently was accepted for transfer by the Turkish Navy. During the next several weeks, Turkish Naval personnel were on board readying *Cobbler* for transfer. On 21 November 1973, *Cobbler* was decommissioned – the national colors, jack and commissioning pennant were lowered – and *Cobbler* was transferred to the Government of Turkey and commissioned as the Turkish Naval Ship "*Canakkale*".

USS *Cobbler* (SS 344) was a proud member of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service from August 8, 1945 through November 21, 1973, providing distinguished service to the United States of America for a period of 28 years, 3 months and 13 days.

Commanding Officers of USS *Cobbler*

CDR J.B. Grady, USN	Aug 45 – Mar 46
CDR. W.G. Holman USN	Mar 46 – Jun 48
CDR. A. L. Redon USN	Jun 48 – Aug 50
LCDR H. P. McNeal USN	Aug 50 – Jul 52
LCDR R.H. Harwood USN	Jul 52 – Jul 54
LCDR W. B. Prigmore USN	Jul 54 – Aug 56
LCDR L. G. Yeich USN	Aug 56 – Aug 58
LCDR F.F. Clifford USN	Aug 58 – Aug 60
Awarded Battle Efficiency E Submarine Squadron SIX – FY 1960	
LCDR R. M. Weidman, Jr. USN	Aug 60 – Jul 63
Awarded Engineering E Submarine Squadron SIX – FY 1961	
CDR P.L. Fullinwider USN	Jul 63 – Jun 65
Awarded Fire Control E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1965	
LCDR A. B. Anderson USN	Jun 65 – Jun 67
Awarded Battle Efficiency E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1967	
CDR A. H. Gilmore USN	Jun 67 – Mar 69
CDR S. G. Alexander USN	Mar 69 – Jul 71
Awarded Fire Control E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1969	
Awarded Battle Efficiency E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1969	
Awarded Fire Control E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1970	
Awarded Battle Efficiency E Submarine Division 21 – FY 1971	
CDR E. P. Zimmer USN	Jul 71 – May 73
Awarded Fire Control E Submarine Squadron TWO – FY 1973	
LCDR V. O. Young USN	May 73 – Nov 73