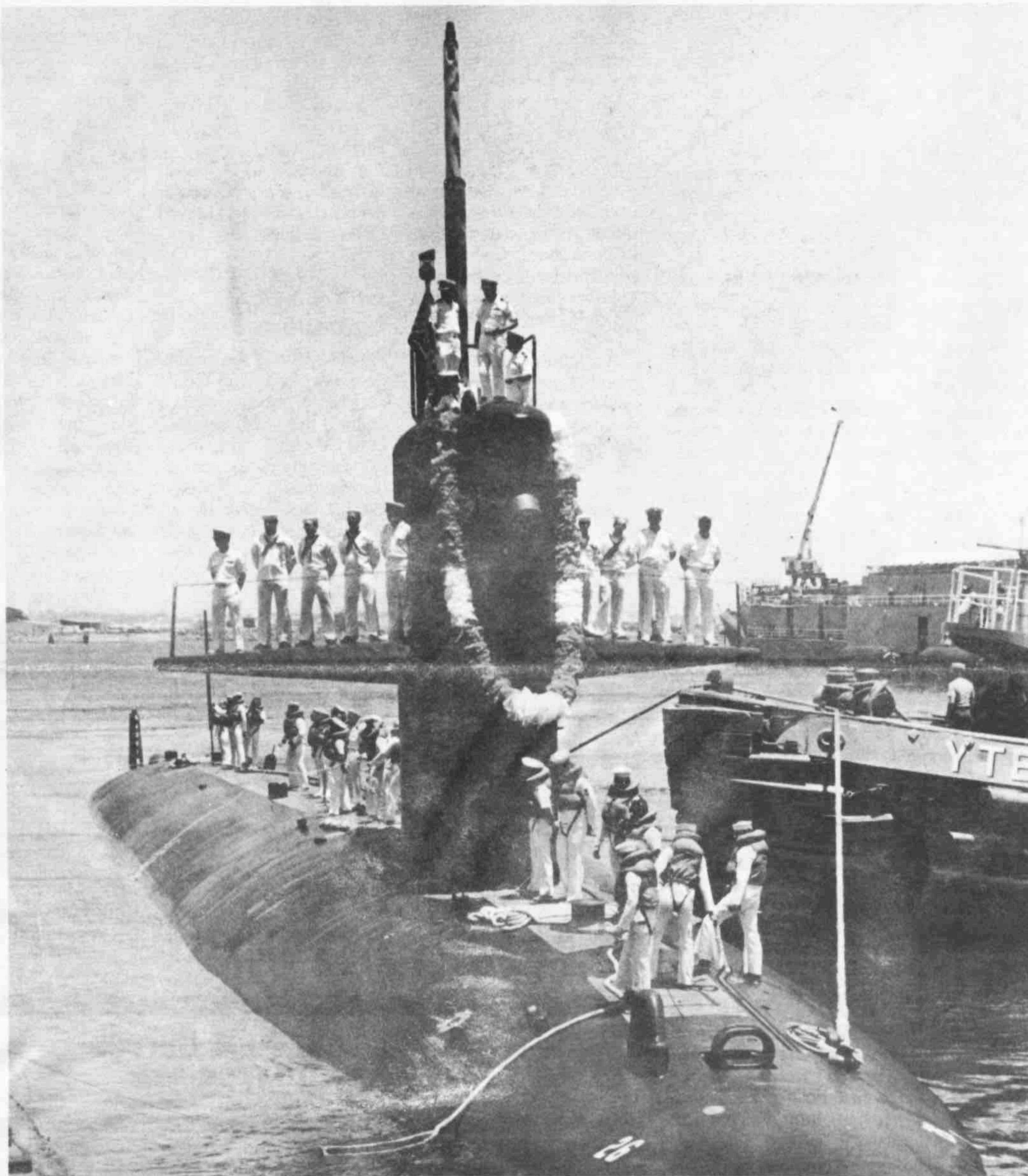


Periscope

Vol. 1 No. 4

Naval Submarine Base, San Diego, California

Friday, July 12, 1985



Welcome back, William H. Bates

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680) returned July 1 after a six month deployment to the Western Pacific performing operations in support of the Seventh Fleet. Bates, a Com-SubGru 5 unit, made working port calls in Guam, Yokosuka and Subic Bay, and a liberty call in Sattahip, Thailand, said Lt. Cmdr. Russell Pickett, Bates' executive officer.

Officer and enlisted dependents visited the submarine while in the Philippines and Thailand and went on tours of

the area, he said. The dependents spent their own money for the trips. Now that Bates is back, the crew will begin a 30-day standdown period, Pickett said. The crew will take maximum liberty and leave. He added a change of command will be held on Bates Aug. 30. After that, it's back to the normal working routine. Pickett said the submarine will get underway for a few days, then begin a five-week upkeep period.

Photo by PH2 Brian Book

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