

# 'Ghost Ships' May Be Answer If Subs Block Ocean Traffic

By ROGER GREENE  
AP Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Remember the legend of the Flying Dutchman, the ghost ship that sailed the seas with a phantom crew?

Now the U. S. Maritime Administration is studying the feasibility of using ghost ships, without a living soul aboard, if American seagoing traffic is ever blocked by Soviet submarines.

The idea would be to ram vital cargoes through submarine-infested waters to overseas bases without risking the lives of American seamen.

Spurred by the threat of Russia's reported fleet of 500 submarines—and the knowledge that Hitler almost brought England to her knees with only 50 U-boats in World War II—the Maritime Administration has called on the Navy to help plan the nation's first commercial ghost ships.

As presently outlined, the ships

would be huge, high-speed under-seas craft.

Federal Maritime Administrator Clarence G. Morse says he believes it is now possible to achieve automatic navigation—the mariner's dream for centuries—through a major breakthrough in the development of inertial guidance systems.

Morse cites a recent announcement by a British firm, the Mitchell Engineering Co., that it is designing an atomic-powered submarine oil tanker capable of crossing the Atlantic without a single crewman.

Frederick Mitchell, chairman of the London firm, says model tests of such a craft have been successful and the company hopes to launch a full-size vessel, steered and navigated by automation, within five years.

Col. Charles R. Denison, chief of the Maritime Administration's research branch, says the nerve center of the proposed ghost ships would be based on the Navy's top-secret Ship Inertial Navigation

System.

With SINS, he says, it would be possible to set a crewless ship or submarine tanker on course and have it cross the Atlantic unerringly regardless of wind, waves or stormy weather.

As conceived by Col. Denison, a pilot and skeleton crew would take the ghost ship out to the open sea and head it toward Southampton, England.

Pilot and crew would then return to shore and leave the ship to sail on alone without human guidance.

At a pre-arranged point off the English coast, another pilot and crew would meet the ship and guide it through harbor traffic into port.

Already successfully tested aboard the Navy's experimental ship Compass Island, SINS is the gadget with which the Navy finally licked some of the trickiest problems in launching its 1,500-mile Polaris missile from a submerged submarine.

Rivals Compass

Navy experts call it the greatest navigation development since the invention of the compass.

SINS, with its fantastically complicated system of gyroscopes, accelerators and computers, provides the Navy with precise data for missile alignment—or navigation—without reference to the stars, radio, radar and other conventional methods.

Capt. L. L. Schock Jr., chief of the Navigation Branch, Special Projects Office, says this is its importance to the Navy:

Unlike land-based missiles with their stationary bases at unknown geographical positions, ship-based missiles such as the Polaris demand highly accurate and continuous information on the exact location of the launching ship.

Required Answers

Otherwise it would be impossible to direct the missile to its far-off target. By the magic of its gyros and computers SINS comes up with the required answers.

Schock goes on to explain that SINS, with its nest of gyroscopes, provides almost 100 per cent stability of position.

"When the ship pitches or rolls, the gyro package floating in heavy fluid remains absolutely motionless—more level than a pool table," he says.

Since the Navy fights with its ships, either to seek out the enemy or ward off attack, it has no known plans to develop crewless vessels.

Navy officials, however, express keen interest in the Maritime Administration's proposal to build commercial ghost ships for possible wartime use.

## 'Envy of Thousands'



IRWIN, Iowa—Pretty 17-year-old Judy Plumb of Irwin packs her bags preparatory to leaving for a job for which thousands of teen-age girls would give their eye teeth. Judy is going to live with and be a baby-sitter for four daughters of singer Pat Boone. Judy got the job because her mother wrote a letter to Boone and asked for it. (AP)

## Welfare State Promised by Japan Boss

TOKYO (AP)—Conservative Nobusuke Kishi, re-elected prime minister by Parliament, pledged Friday to steer Japan toward an independent foreign policy and a welfare state at home.

The new lower house gave Kishi 61-year-old leader of the Liberal Democrats, a 290-162 margin Thursday over Socialist Moaburo Suzuki.

Kishi immediately chose 16 Cabinet ministers, all new except one: Emperor Hirohito then installed Kishi and his Cabinet at the Imperial Palace.

The Prime Minister issued a statement saying his party's election victory May 22 proved "our progressive conservatism is what the people really wanted."

He proposed a social security system, a long-term economic program and promised to do his utmost "to construct a welfare state." He has advocated expanded welfare programs to counter Socialist appeals.

He did not elaborate on his plans for what he called an independent foreign policy. The Socialists charge Japan's foreign policy is too closely geared to that of the United States.

Kishi's party won 298 of Parliament's 467 lower house seats. His sweep of the old Cabinet reflected his increased personal political power.

## "Where Handicaps Disappear"



by Yvonne Ogden Earnst

When a 32-year-old victim of cerebral palsy enrolled in the class, he had never attended school before. Like others with life-long handicaps, he was given therapy plus the formal education previously denied him. Today he and other graduates of this unique class are useful members of society. Read this inspiring article in the

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