



#242NAVYBDAY

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SEA POWER

1700s



1775 OCTOBER 13

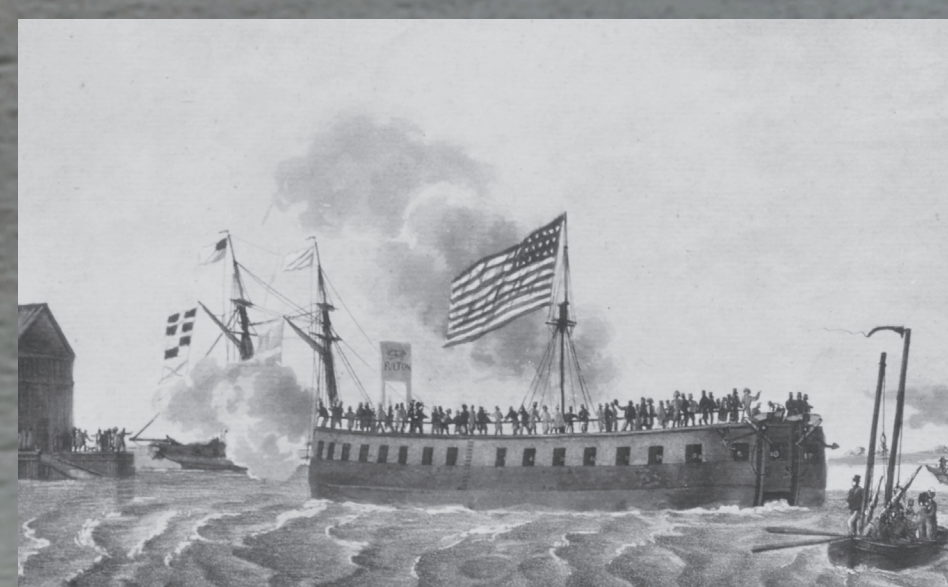
The Continental Congress' resolution to procure two armed vessels is the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew; the U.S. Navy is born.



1776 JANUARY 5

The first Continental Navy squadron is ordered to sea by Congress to seek the British off the east coast of the United States.

1800s



1814 OCTOBER 29

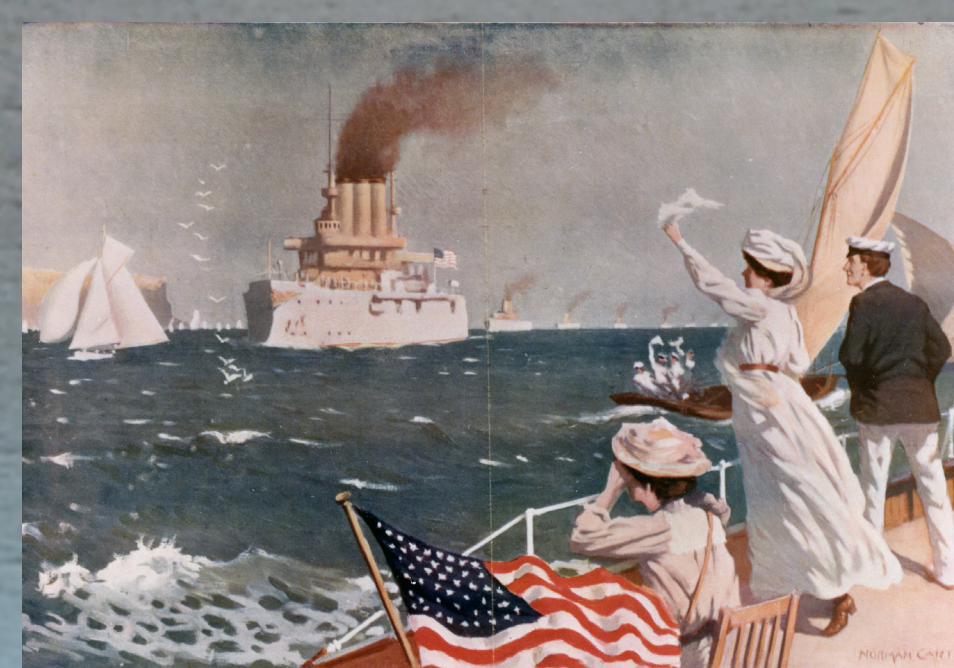
Built by Robert Fulton, the first steam-powered Navy warship, the frigate Fulton, is launched at New York City.



1893 APRIL 1

Navy General Order 409 establishes the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

1900s



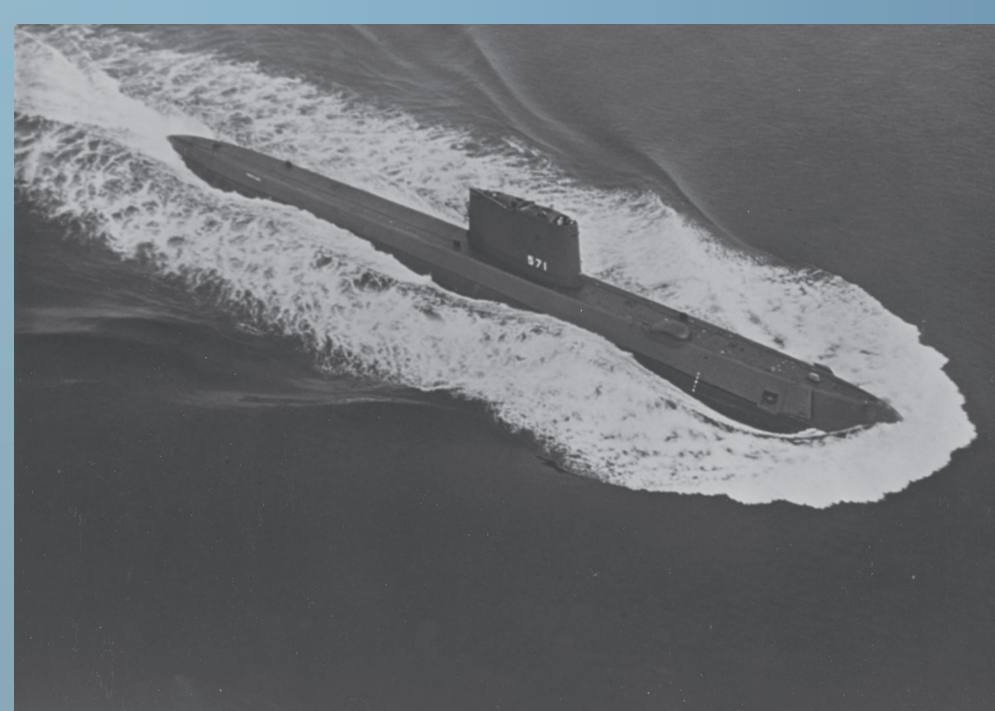
1907 DECEMBER 16

President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet departs Hampton Roads, Va., to circumnavigate the globe.



1917 MARCH 21

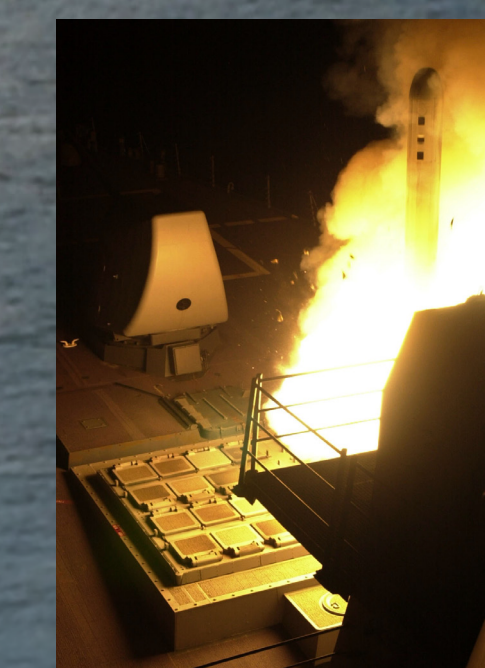
As the United States nears entry into World War I, Loretta Walsh becomes the first woman sworn in as a Chief Yeoman shortly after the door is opened for women to serve as yeomen.



1954 SEPTEMBER 30

Cmdr. Eugene Wilkinson commands the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), as she is commissioned at Groton, Conn.

2000s



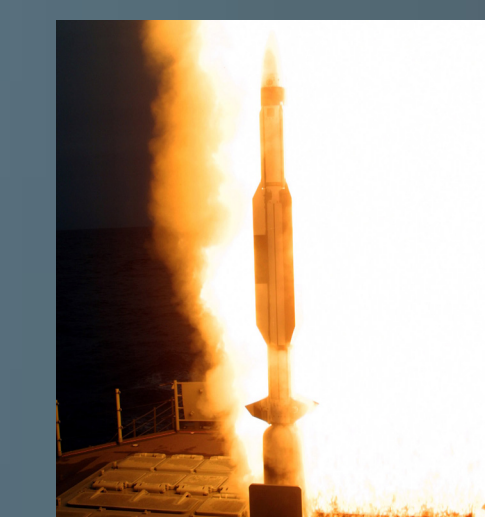
2001 OCTOBER 7

In the wake of the Sept. 11 al-Qaeda terrorist attacks, Sailors from USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) and USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) launch the first Tomahawk strikes on targets in Afghanistan as Operation Enduring Freedom begins.



2003 MARCH 19

In an effort to liberate the Iraqi people and end the regime of Saddam Hussein, Operation Iraqi Freedom begins with airstrikes.



2008 FEBRUARY 20

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors fire a Standard Missile-3, destroying a dangerous, nonfunctioning satellite just before it enters earth's atmosphere.



2010 JANUARY 12

A 7.0 earthquake hits Haiti. Sailors of USS Higgins (DDG 76) are the first naval forces to arrive with support, soon followed by dozens of units as part of Operation Unified Response.