

USS La Jolla (SSN 701), RG005.38

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Descriptive Summary

Title: USS La Jolla (SSN 701)

Dates: 1976 - Present

Collection Number: RG005.38

Creator/Collector: La Jolla Historical Society

Extent: .5 linear feet

Repository: La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

Abstract: The USS La Jolla (SSN 701) Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. USS La Jolla (SSN-701), a Los Angeles-class submarine, is named for La Jolla, California. The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 10 December 1973 and her keel was laid down on 16 October 1976. She was launched on 11 August 1979 and commissioned on 24 October 1981 with Captain James R. Lang in command. La Jolla was the first to successfully test fire a Tomahawk cruise missile while submerged at the Pacific Missile Test Center on 29 April 1983. On 23 August 2004, the La Jolla returned to Pearl Harbor after a six-month deployment in the Pacific Ocean. She conducted port visits in Korea, Japan, Singapore, Saipan, and Guam, and participated in five international exercises, including Pacific Reach 2004. On November 7, 2019, a conversion of the La Jolla was completed at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. On November 15, 2019, she was officially decommissioned and stricken from the Navy list. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Language of Material: English

Access: The Collection is open for research

Publication Rights: The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

Preferred Citation: Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

Acquisition Information: RG005.38

Biography/Administrative History: The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

Scope and Content of Collection: The USS La Jolla (SSN 701) Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. USS La Jolla (SSN-701), a Los Angeles-class submarine, is named for La Jolla, California. The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 10 December 1973 and her keel was laid down on 16 October 1976. She was launched on 11 August 1979 and commissioned on 24 October 1981 with Captain James R. Lang in command. La Jolla was the first to successfully test fire a Tomahawk cruise missile while submerged at the Pacific Missile Test Center on 29 April 1983. On 23 August 2004, the La Jolla returned to Pearl Harbor after a six-month deployment in the Pacific Ocean. She conducted port visits in Korea, Japan, Singapore, Saipan, and Guam, and participated in five international exercises, including Pacific Reach 2004. On November 7, 2019, a conversion of the La Jolla was completed at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. On November 15, 2019, she was officially decommissioned and stricken from the Navy list. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Container List Below

Container List

RG005 – Subject Files (Large)
Box 38 – USS La Jolla (SSN 701)

USS La Jolla: Photographs

Photograph. Photo of the USS La Jolla underway. Includes a message to the La Jolla Historical Society from the commanding officer of the ship. January 29, 1997.

Photograph. Photo of the USS La Jolla underway.

Photograph. Photo of Captain James Richard Lang, commanding officer of the USS La Jolla.

Photograph. Photo of the USS La Jolla coming into harbor.

Photograph. Photo of a US Navy Admiral shaking hands with a woman at a dinner event.

Photograph. Photo of the USS La Jolla flying an American flag while underway.

Drawing. Drawing of the USS La Jolla underwater.

USS La Jolla: Keel Laying

Keel plate. Metal replica of the USS La Jolla keel plate.

Invitation. Invitation to Bob Wilson from General Dynamics for the keel laying of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Envelope. Envelope commemorating the keel laying of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976 (two copies).

Photograph. Photo of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson and two others at the keel laying of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mrs. Bob Wilson assisting in the welding of the keel plate on the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson during the keel laying ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of the keel laying ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mrs. Bob Wilson welding her initials onto the USS La Jolla's keel. October 16, 1976.

Program. General Dynamics program for the keel laying ceremony of the USS La Jolla. 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mrs. Bob Wilson and others at the keel laying ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Bob Wilson speaking at the keel laying ceremony for the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Bob Wilson standing in front of the keel plate of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson in front of the keel plate of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mrs. Bob Wilson embracing a US Navy admiral in civilian clothing. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of the entire group attending the keel laying ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of a man tying on a welding apron to Mrs. Bob Wilson immediately prior to the welding of the keel plate of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1976.

Photograph. Photo of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson with their daughter in front of the banner for the keel laying ceremony. October 16, 1976.

Letter. Thank you letter from the La Jolla Historical Society to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wilson for the donation of items related to the keel laying of the USS La Jolla. March 11, 1980.

USS La Jolla: Commissioning

Booklet. Booklet commemorating the commissioning ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 24, 1981 (five copies).

Invitations. Series of invitations to the commissioning ceremony of the USS La Jolla. 1981.

Congressional record. Record of a speech by Duncan Hunter Sr. to congress about the commissioning of the USS La Jolla. October 29, 1981.

USS La Jolla: Articles

Article. "Sub based here hits, sinks S. Korean fishing boat" by James W. Crawley on the USS La Jolla hitting a South Korean fishing boat. S.D. Union-Tribune. February 1998.

Article. "USS La Jolla submariners receive honors" by Connie Castro. La Jolla Light. July 29, 1999.

Article. "N-Sub La Jolla is launched on East Coast" by Grace-Marie Arnett. Copley News Service. 1981.

Sketch. La Jolla Light sketch of the USS La Jolla insignia with a two paragraph explanation/context. La Jolla Light. July 10, 1980.

Article. "La Jollans on hand for christening of namesake sub" on the christening of the USS La Jolla. La Jolla Light. October 22, 1981.

Article. "Song in his heart is 'La Jolla'" about Harry Berman's song "La Jolla". La Jolla Light. May 8, 1980.

Article. "La Jolla launching" on the launching of the USS La Jolla. La Jolla Light. July 26, 1979.

Article. "Fete becomes La Jolla day" on the commissioning ceremony of the USS La Jolla. San Diego Tribune. October 26, 1981 (two copies).

Article. "Warm welcome planned for nuclear submarine" by Paul Cour on the USS La Jolla entering San Diego's harbor. San Diego Tribune. March 18, 1982.

Container List

Article. Small article on the commissioning of the USS La Jolla with a prominent photograph of the submarine during the ceremony. The Day, New London, Connecticut. October 26, 1981.

Article. Small article on the collision of the USS La Jolla with the USS Permit off the coast of San Francisco. December 17, 1982.

Article. "USS La Jolla arrives 'home' amid fanfare" by Mike Krey on the USS La Jolla entering port in San Diego. La Jolla Light. March 25, 1982.

Editorial. "Supporting the USS La Jolla" on the ceremony for the La Jolla entering San Diego for the first time. La Jolla Light. March 4, 1982.

Article. "Navy reprimands 2 on N-sub" on the Navy reprimanding the commander of the USS La Jolla for a collision with the USS Permit off the coast of San Francisco. February 16, 1983.

Article. "Life aboard USS La Jolla marked by teamwork, cramped quarters".

Article. "USS La Jolla return home amid fanfare" by Susanne Williams on the USS La Jolla entering San Diego for the first time. La Jolla Light. February 21, 1985.

Article. "Group offers support for the USS La Jolla" by Ray Langley on the start of a USS La Jolla community group in San Diego. La Jolla Village News. October 16, 1997.

Article. "'Jewel' Joins Navy Fleet" on the USS La Jolla being commissioned into the US Navy. San Diego Union. October 25, 1981.

Photograph. Photo of the USS La Jolla in dry dock at Ballast Point in San Diego. LA Times. May 3, 1991.

Collection of articles. Series of three small articles on the christening of the USS La Jolla and the song to be sung at its ceremony.

Article. Wikipedia article providing a background and fact sheet on the USS La Jolla. Wikipedia. Printed April 23, 2021.

Newsletter. Copy of The Dolphin newsletter commemorating the launching of the USS La Jolla. August 17, 1979.

USS La Jolla: Miscellaneous Documents

Envelope. Envelope bearing the seal of the USS La Jolla. Sent to W.E. Wood of Santa Ana, CA. Postmarked August 15, 1980.

Sticker. Sticker of the seal of the USS La Jolla.

Business card. Signed business card for the office of Congressman Bob Wilson.

Pamphlet. Pamphlet for the community welcoming of the USS La Jolla. March 20, 1982.

Pamphlet. Civilian-oriented welcome aboard pamphlet for the USS La Jolla (two copies).

Christmas card. Christmas card from Bob and Shirley Wilson containing photos of the christening of the USS La Jolla. 1979.

Envelopes. Series of five envelopes commemorating the launching of the USS La Jolla. All five postmarked August 1979.

Pamphlet. "Welcome Aboard" pamphlet for civilians touring the USS La Jolla (two copies).

Pamphlet. Pamphlet for the reception of the USS La Jolla by the La Jolla Tow Council. October 21, 2014.

Letter. Letter to Pat Schaelchlin from Cmdr. E.L. Dempsey of the USS La Jolla, thanking Schaelchlin for a La Jolla-themed calendar. February 4, 1997.

Timeline. Timeline of the history of the USS La Jolla from its commissioning in 1981 to its decommissioning in 2014.

Biography. Biography of Commander Edward L. Dempsey of the USS La Jolla.

Letter. Letter to Barbara Dawson from Cmdr. J.R. Lang regarding Dawson giving the crew a copy of Howard *Randolph's La Jolla Year by Year*. August 17, 1979.

Note. Note of the sequence of events for the commissioning ceremony of the USS La Jolla. October 16, 1981 (three copies).

Sheet music. Sheet music for the song "La Jolla" by Harry Berman.

Program. Program for the launching of the USS La Jolla by General Dynamics. August 11, 1979.

USS La Jolla: Oversized Items

Photograph. Photograph of the USS La Jolla underway dedicated to the La Jolla Historical Society. On display inside the La Jolla Historical Society offices. Dated October 24, 1981.

Display case. Display case dedicated to the La Jolla Historical Society with a plaque bearing the seal of the USS La Jolla and the ship's United States' flag placed within. On display inside the offices of the La Jolla Historical Society.

Commemorative coin. Coin bearing the seal of the USS La Jolla on one side and the phrase "Jewel of the Pacific" on the other.
