

Christmas in Monaco



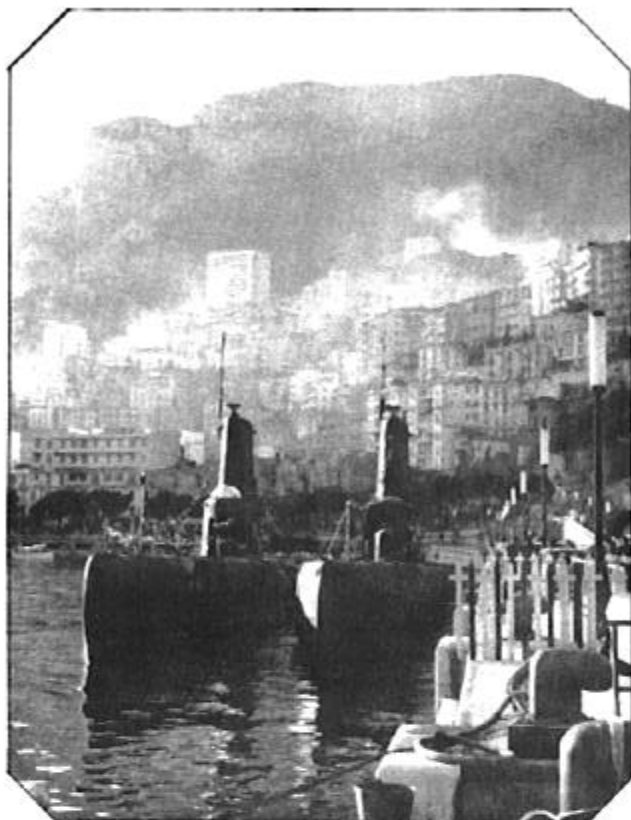
Entering Port

The USS CORPORAL (SS-346), a submarine of Submarine Squadron FOUR and presently attached to the famed SIXTH Fleet, spent the holiday period in the Principality of Monaco.

During the holiday period the officers and crew of CORPORAL sponsored and took part in many of the festivities in Monaco. On 23 December the crew sponsored a Christmas party for twenty orphan children of Monaco. They were shown several cartoons, treated to ice cream and cake in the gaily decorated crew's mess, and were all presented with Christmas presents at the end of the festivities. Princess Grace attended the party and was presented with a lovely orchid corsage by the children. The corsage was provided by the crew.

On Christmas Eve the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Stephen J. O'LEARY, of Summerville, South Carolina, attended mass at the palace by invitation of the sovereign family. At the completion of mass he was joined by Lieutenant Commander John B. FOSTER, of Charleston Estates, and Lieutenant (Junior grade) Scot BROWN, of North Charleston, South Carolina, at the palace Christmas party.

On Christmas day the Commanding Officer presented the crew with a unique present from Submarine Squadron FOUR. The gift consisted of a reel of 16 MM film complete with sound track which relayed individual Christmas greetings from the families of officers and crew. This very thoughtful gift was a real surprise and established attendance records for many hours after receipt.



Sister ship "Cubera" along side for a day

On New Years Eve the Commanding Officer attended a party at the Hotel de Paris as guest of honor of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier.

On the fifth of January CORPORAL went to sea as part of an operational inspection which was made by Vice Admiral Elton W. GRENPFIL, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Also on board for the short cruise were Prince Rainier, Princess Grace, and Prince Pierre (father of Prince Rainier). The cruise marked the first time Princess Grace had gone to sea on a submarine.

During the two hours at sea three dives were made within a few miles of the Monacan coast. The end of the cruise was highlighted by Princess Grace firing a "water slug" from one of the forward torpedo tubes.

Strong interest in underwater research and oceanographic work in the Mediterranean resulted in the sovereign couple making the cruise on CORPORAL. A large oceanarium at Monaco and support of related projects reflect the strong interest Prince Rainier has in the sea life and underwater features of the Mediterranean. The Prince and Princess make frequent voyages in a specially constructed yacht for oceanographic research and exploration.

After leaving Monaco the CORPORAL will visit Toulon, France; Barcelona, Spain; and Gibraltar before returning to Charleston on March 15.