

1958 Newsreel: USS Skate, Nuclear Sub, Is First to Surface at North Pole

<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter?cuecard=41751>



General Information

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Description

This 1958 Universal newsreel uses Dept. of Defense video to report on the USS Skate, a nuclear submarine that is the first sub to surface through the arctic winter ice, 25 feet thick, at the North Pole.

Keywords

North Pole, USS Skate, Submarine, Nuclear Submarine, Sub, Surface, Ice, Arctic Ice, Arctic Winter, Thickness, Nuclear Missile, H-Bomb, Hydrogen Bomb, Atomic, Target, Weapon, Retaliatory, Attack, Nuclear Attack, Cold War, U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, Polar Ice Cap, Ice Floes, Arctic, Ocean, Hubert Wilkins, USS Nautilus, Undersea, Explorer, Polar Exploration, Ashes, Scattered, Ceremony, Universal Newsreel, "Ice Crusher: A-Sub Skate Breaks to Surface at Pole", Discovery, Exploration

Transcript

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ED HERLIHY, reporting:

USS Skate heads north on another epic cruise into the strange underseas realm first opened up by our nuclear submarines. Last year, the Skate and her sister-sub Nautilus both cruised under the Arctic ice to the Pole. Then, conditions were most favorable. The Skate's job is to see if it can be done when the Arctic winter is at its worst, with high winds pushing the floes into motion and the ice as thick as twenty-five

feet.

Ten times she is able to surface. Once, at the North Pole, where crewmen performed a mission of sentiment, scattering the ashes of polar explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins. In 1931, he was the first to attempt a submarine cruise to the Pole. Now, the Skate's twelve-day three thousand mile voyage under the ice, shown in Defense Department films, demonstrates that missile-carrying nuclear subs could lurk under the Polar Ice Cap, safe from attack, to emerge at will, and fire off H-bomb missiles to any target on Earth. A powerful, retaliatory weapon for America's defense.

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