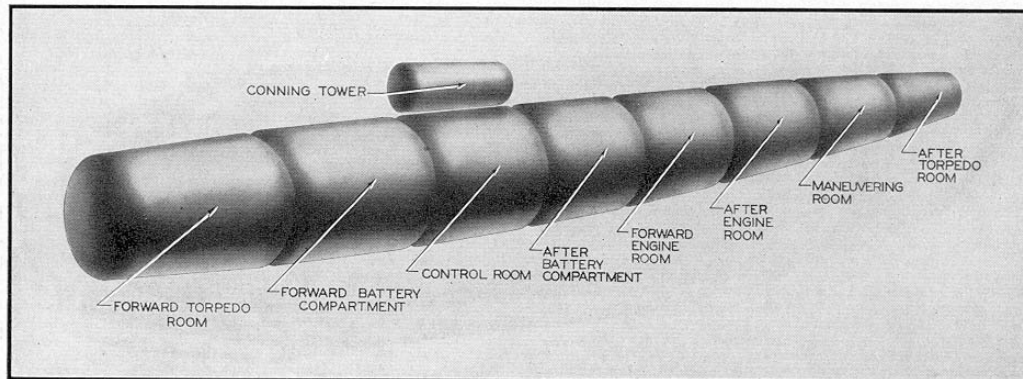


SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION

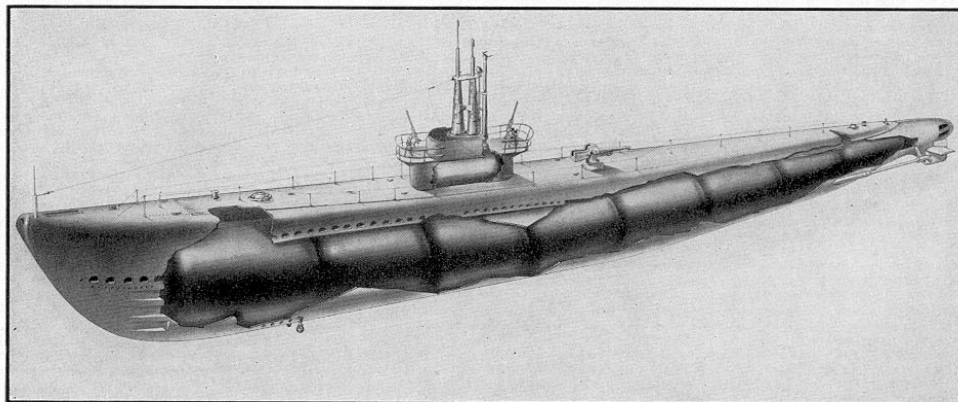
A submarine is not made like a surface ship. It consists of three basic elements:

1. The pressure hull – this is essentially a cylinder that contains all the equipment and the living and operating areas of the ship. The wall of this cylinder is several inches thick to withstand the pressures at the operating depths.



Type of construction, showing arrangement of compartments, without the superstructure or tanks.

2. The ballast tanks – this is another cylinder that surrounds a portion of the pressure hull and holds air when the submarine is surfaced. To submerge the submarine the air is vented out of the ballast tanks and seawater floods into the tank. To surface the ship high pressure air is sent into the tanks forcing the water out. Because of the stresses involved the ballast tank walls are thicker than a surface ship's hull.
3. The superstructure - This is a free-flooding area that serves to make the ship move through the water with less resistance and allow for movement of people and equipment when the ship is on the surface. This is where the majority of the corrosion on USS Clamagore is located. **EVEN IF THE ENTIRE SUPERSTRUCTURE CORRODED AWAY THE SHIP WOULD NOT SINK.**



Type of construction, showing the general arrangement of the superstructure.

This picture identifies the approximate location of the ballast tanks and the superstructure of USS Clamagore SS 343.

