The First Journey Under the Polar Ice Cap

Pearl Harbor July 28, 1958: the USS Nautilus leaves Pearl Harbor, HI

In 1958, the Cold War was in full swing. The US and USSR were rapidly expanding military stockpiles and nuclear capabilities. A few years earlier, the US had launched the world's first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus. Nuclear power let this sub to stay under water longer than any before, allowing it to reach new places. In the summer of 1958, the Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole under the polar ice cap, opening another new route between the USSR and North America. Pictured here is the journey the Nautilus took from Hawai'i to England, showing accurate distances, since the polar region is often distorted on maps, like on the one below.

A July 28: Nautilus sends up a periscope near the Diomede Islands



Point Barrow

Hudson 🌢

Aug. 1: Nautilus resurfaces near Point Barrow, AK and dives under the ice cap

ort

North Pole

Aug. 3, 11:50 pm: Nautilus passes over the geographic north pole

> Aug. 5: Nautilus resurfaces in the Greenland Sea between Greenland and Spitsberg

GREENLANI

Aug. 5: The Nautilus lands in Iceland

On a Mercator Projection:



