

1946

U.S.S. Makassar Strait

United States Navy

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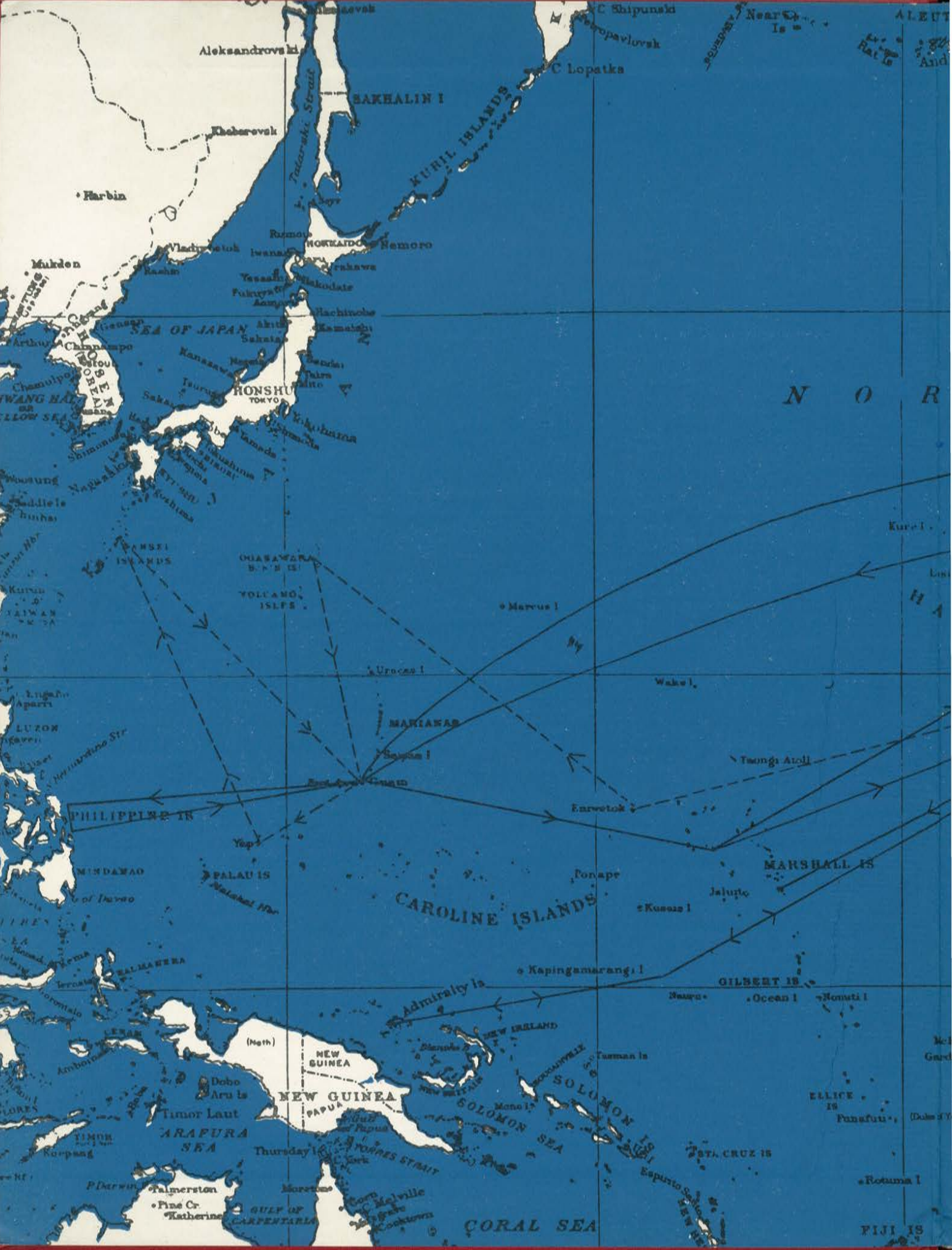
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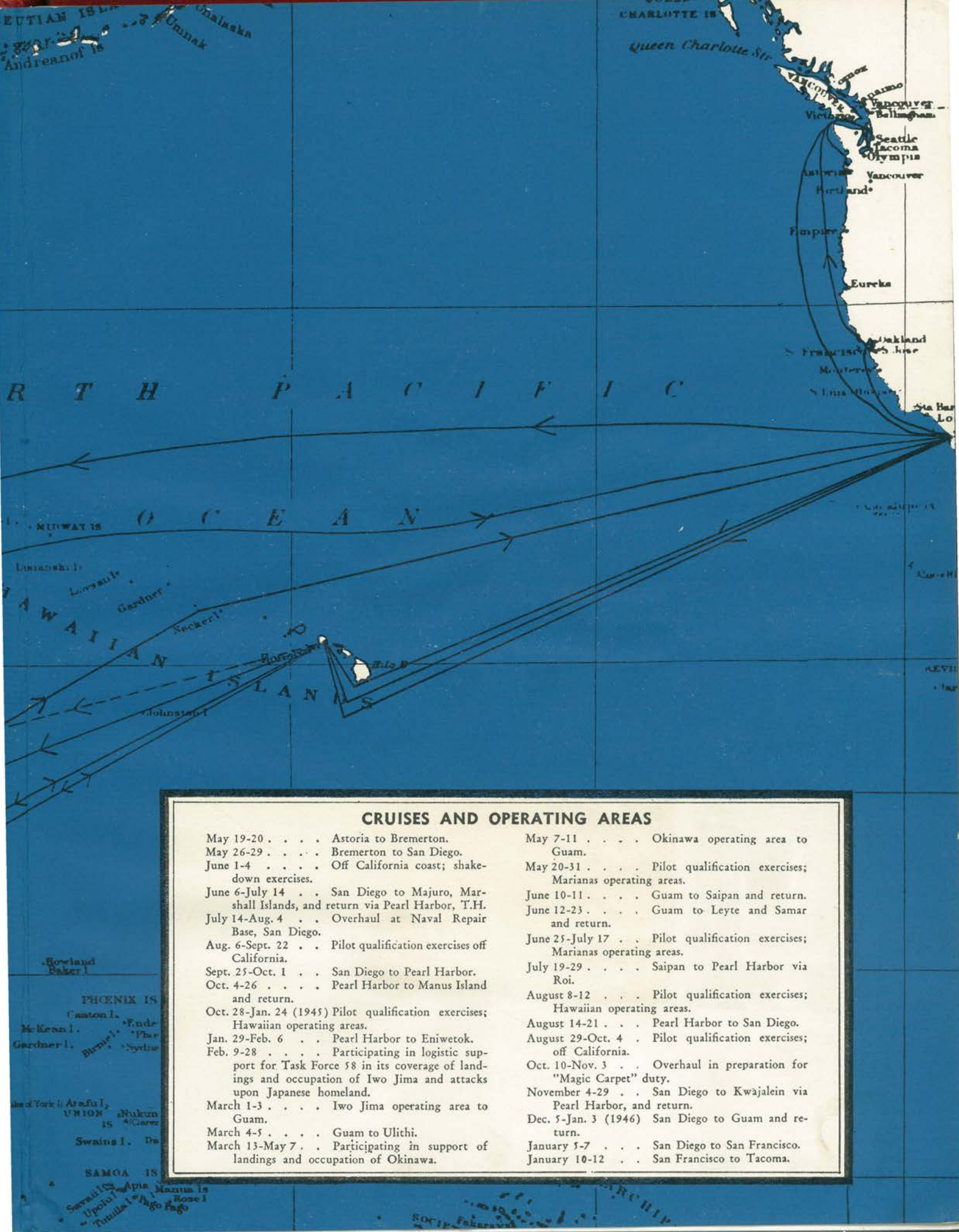
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"THE MIGHTY MAK"

(CVE-91)





CRUISES AND OPERATING AREAS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| May 19-20 | Astoria to Bremerton. | May 7-11 | Okinawa operating area to Guam. |
| May 26-29 | Bremerton to San Diego. | May 20-31 | Pilot qualification exercises; Marianas operating areas. |
| June 1-4 | Off California coast; shake-down exercises. | June 10-11 | Guam to Saipan and return. |
| June 6-July 14 | San Diego to Majuro, Marshall Islands, and return via Pearl Harbor, T.H. | June 12-23 | Guam to Leyte and Samar and return. |
| July 14-Aug. 4 | Overhaul at Naval Repair Base, San Diego. | June 25-July 17 | Pilot qualification exercises; Marianas operating areas. |
| Aug. 6-Sept. 22 | Pilot qualification exercises off California. | July 19-29 | Saipan to Pearl Harbor via Roi. |
| Sept. 25-Oct. 1 | San Diego to Pearl Harbor. | August 8-12 | Pilot qualification exercises; Hawaiian operating areas. |
| Oct. 4-26 | Pearl Harbor to Manus Island and return. | August 14-21 | Pearl Harbor to San Diego. |
| Oct. 28-Jan. 24 (1945) | Pilot qualification exercises; Hawaiian operating areas. | August 29-Oct. 4 | Pilot qualification exercises; off California. |
| Jan. 29-Feb. 6 | Pearl Harbor to Eniwetok. | Oct. 10-Nov. 3 | Overhaul in preparation for "Magic Carpet" duty. |
| Feb. 9-28 | Participating in logistic support for Task Force 58 in its coverage of landings and occupation of Iwo Jima and attacks upon Japanese homeland. | November 4-29 | San Diego to Kwajalein via Pearl Harbor, and return. |
| March 1-3 | Iwo Jima operating area to Guam. | Dec. 5-Jan. 3 (1946) | San Diego to Guam and return. |
| March 4-5 | Guam to Ulithi. | January 5-7 | San Diego to San Francisco. |
| March 13-May 7 | Participating in support of landings and occupation of Okinawa. | January 10-12 | San Francisco to Tacoma. |



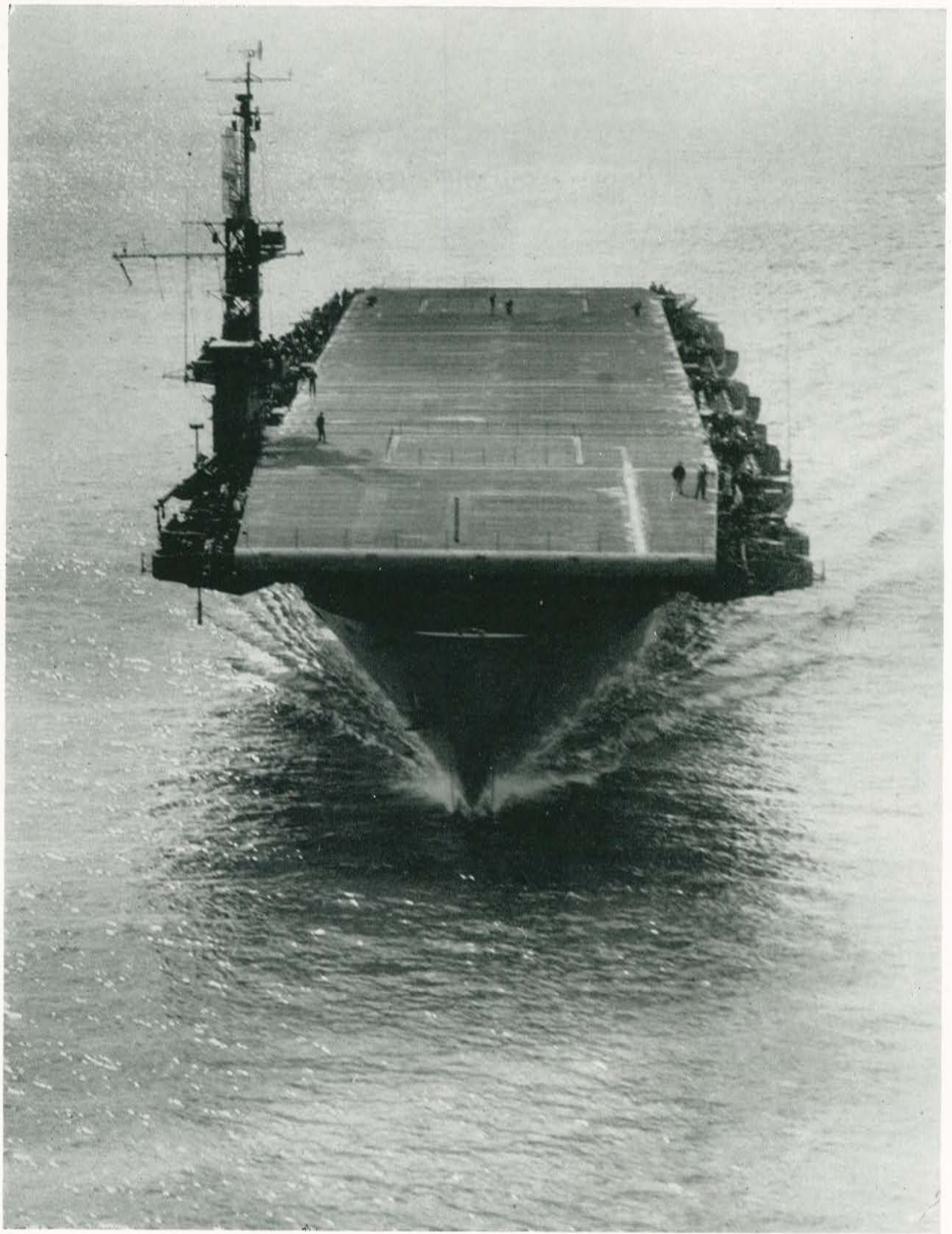
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Song for the Mighty Mak

I sing of a ship and the men who gave her birth
In a time of pain and peril—not of glory
Upon the western waters of the earth—
This is another, legendary story
To grow in greatness as its greatness grows
Within the minds of those who were too near
To history to see beyond the foes
Or separate the meaning from the fear—
I sing of smoke and steel and weary nights
Of loneliness upon a lonely sea;
Of fighting time and planes; shadows and lights,
Of wind and sun, dream and reality—
Of life as we have lived it here I sing
To celebrate the Mighty Mak's last spring.

THE
MIGHTY
MAK
1945





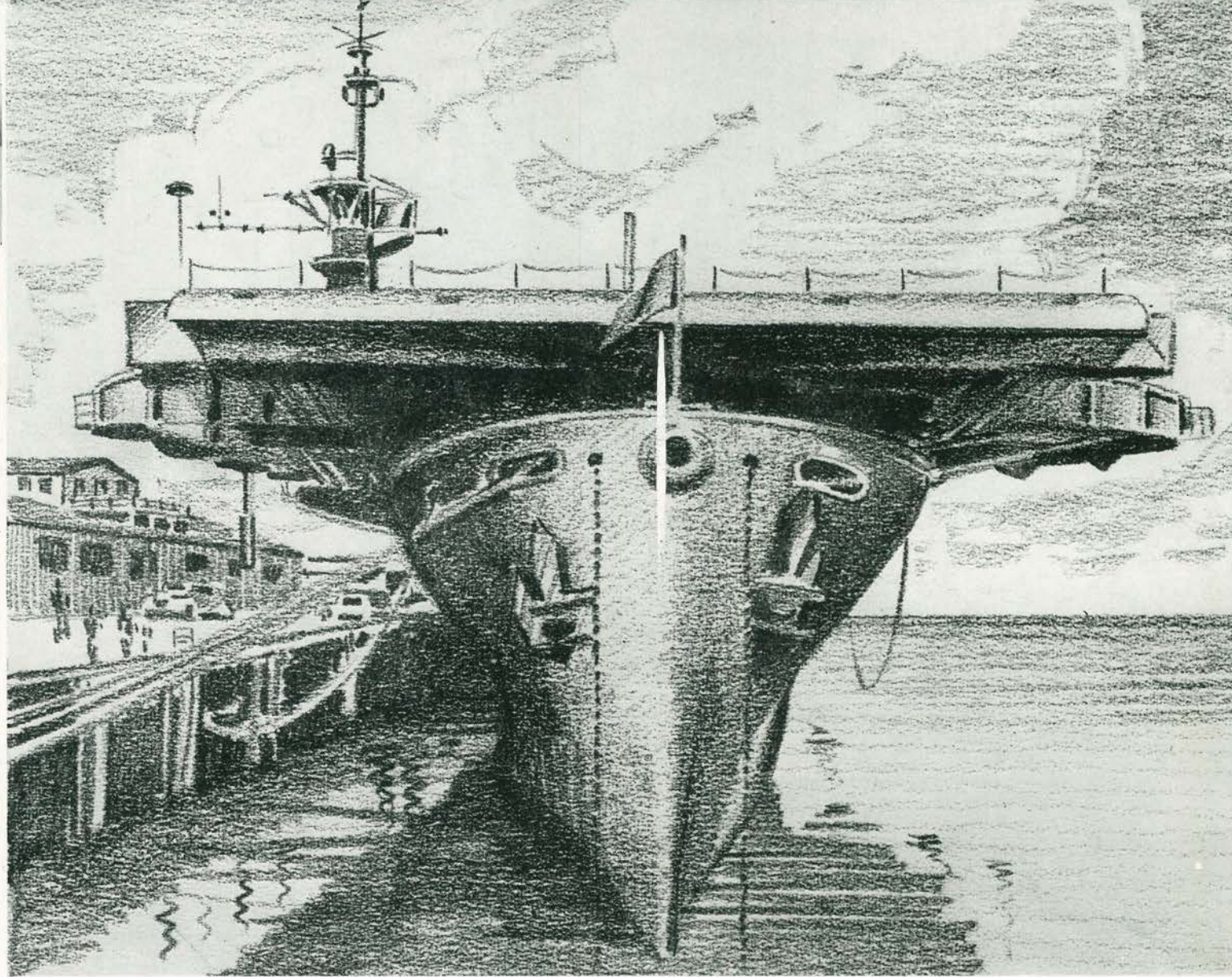
ON APRIL 27, 1944, the escort carrier Makassar Strait (CVE 91), joined the United States fleet. The Navy had only recently started on the long road of island-hopping to Tokyo.

ON JANUARY 14, 1946, the same carrier sailed her "last mile" to a Tacoma pier, to be placed "in commission in reserve." The war had ended five months before; most of America's fighting men had been returned to their homeland. The "Mighty Mak" had completed her mission in World War II. The job was done—well done.

IN the twenty-and-a-half months between those two dates, the baby flattop had been called upon to serve in a great variety of assignments. She had fought in direct support of landings and invasions; given aerial protection to the vital life-lines of supply to a fleet operating far from land bases; ferried many loads of planes to vital outposts; given training to hundreds of pilots enroute to front-line carrier duty; served as an experimental station afloat; and, when the fighting was over, scurried back and forth between Pacific islands and the West Coast bringing veterans home on the "magic carpet."

DURING THIS period, the Mak churned up a wake through more than 115,000 miles of Pacific ocean—about half way to the moon. Over fifteen thousand times Navy pilots had brought their Avengers, Wildcats, and Corsairs down on her sturdy flight deck.

THIS WAS the record of the 10,000-ton box-shaped floating airfield . . . This is the story of the "Mighty Mak."



Commissioning

ON JUNE 18, 1942, the Maritime Commission was authorized to build the thirty-seventh escort carrier of the Casablanca class. The keel was laid on December 29, 1942. The ship was launched on March 22, 1943, at the Henry J. Kaiser Company Shipyard, Astoria, Oregon. She was christened the "U. S. S. Makassar Strait," CVE-91, by Mrs. Truman J. Hedding, wife of Captain Truman J. Hedding. The ship was placed in commission on April 27, 1944, in the traditional commissioning ceremony, thus joining the fleet of fighting ships in the United States Navy.

The ceremony was opened with a prayer by Chaplain Lloyd Jack Gray. Captain J. D. Barner, Commanding Officer of the Naval Station, Astoria, then read the orders to commission the U. S. S. Makassar Strait, and ordered the ship to be placed in commission. Captain Warren K. Barner, after reading his orders, took command as the ship's first Commanding Officer. His first official act was to order the Executive Officer, Commander William C. Jonson, Jr., to set the first watch.

The Mak was in the Navy.



COMMISSIONING PRAYER BY CHAPLAIN LOYD JACK GRAY



CAPTAIN J. D. BARNER CONGRATULATES
CAPTAIN W. K. BERNER AS THE FIRST
COMMANDING OFFICER

*. . . . Excerpts from Captain Berner's message
to the Ship's Company.*

"... We have the privilege and the responsibility of giving a new ship her start in life. Before her commissioning, a ship is only a very fine tool . . . but one that can accomplish nothing until taken in hand by those who are to use her . . . First, each officer and man must know his job perfectly . . . Second, at the same time we are becoming expert at our individual jobs, we will learn to operate as a team . . . Third, we must strive to acquire loyalty, alertness, snappiness, strict observance, meticulous attention . . . The things we do in this ship may be the most important things we will ever do. If we do them with all our energy we shall have a proud and victorious ship.

Command . . .



CAPTAIN WARREN K. BERNER
Commanding Officer: April 27, 1944-Jan. 10, 1945



CAPTAIN HERBERT D. RILEY
Commanding Officer: January 10, 1945-July 29, 1945.



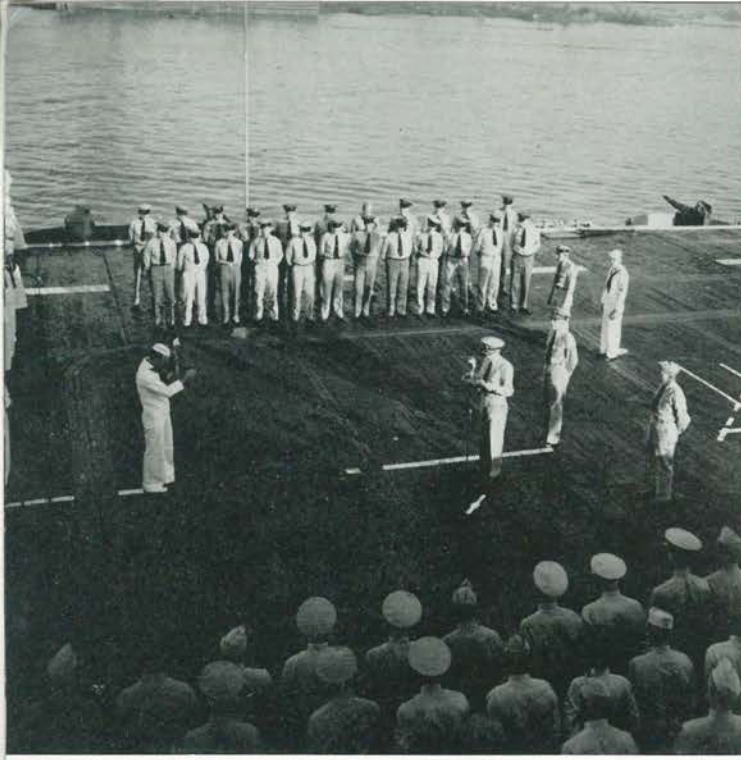
CAPTAIN JOHN O. LAMBRECHT
Commanding Officer: July 29, 1945-February 18, 1946.



CAPTAIN GEORGE O. GJOERLOFF
Executive Officer: August 21, 1945-February 18, 1946.
Commanding Officer: February 18, 1946-



COMDR. WILLIAM C. JONSON, JR.
Executive Officer: April 27, 1944-August 21, 1945.



Three times the quiet, dignified change of command ceremony took place aboard the Mak in her two-year history. The ceremony consisted of each captain reading his orders and then in turn addressing words of greeting and farewell to all hands. In a few moments the formalities were completed, and the ship had a new skipper.

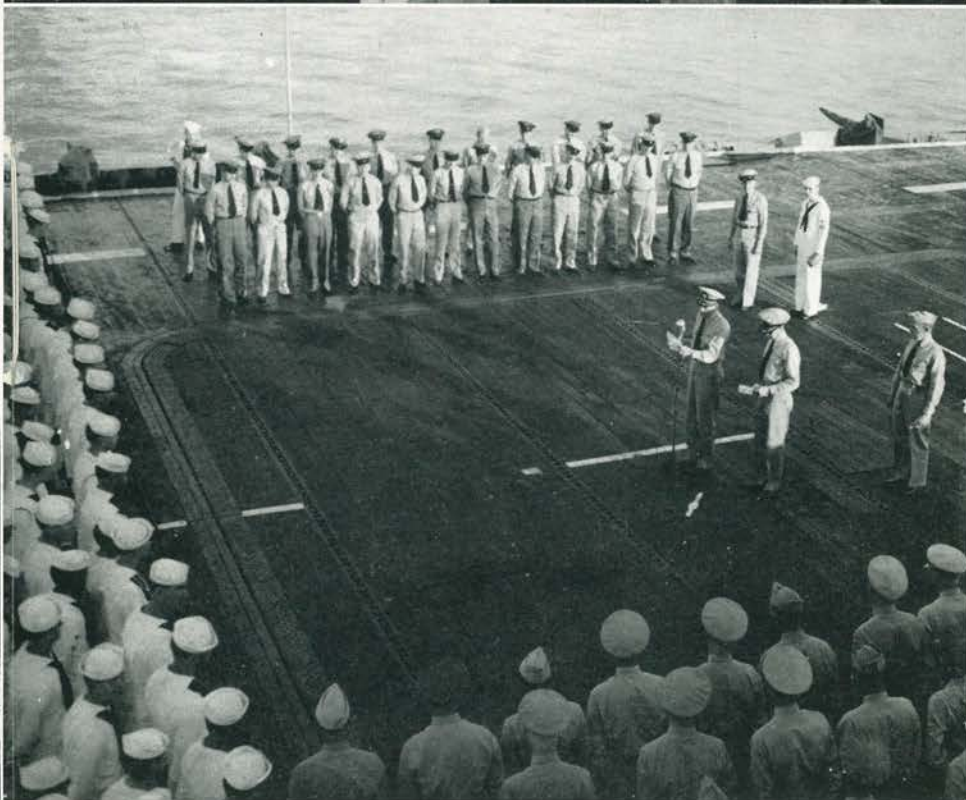


CAPT. GJOERLOFF
TAKES OVER

CAPT. RILEY READING HIS
COMMAND ORDERS

CAPT. LAMBRECHT
RELIEVES CAPT. RILEY





CAPT. RILEY INSPECTS AS
HE TAKES COMMAND

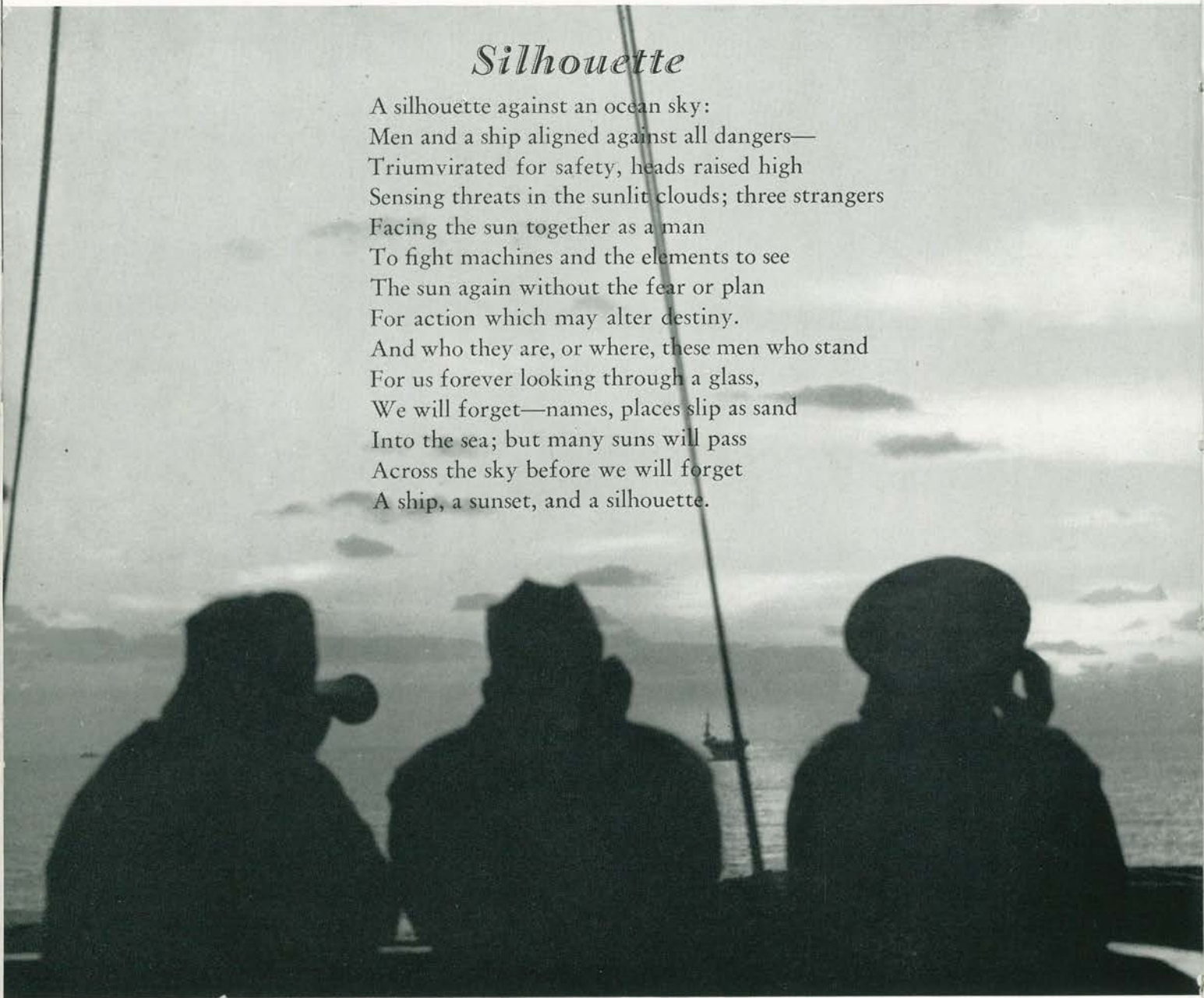
BOTTOM RIGHT—

CAPT LAMBRECHT
ON INSPECTION



Silhouette

A silhouette against an ocean sky:
Men and a ship aligned against all dangers—
Triumvirated for safety, heads raised high
Sensing threats in the sunlit clouds; three strangers
Facing the sun together as a man
To fight machines and the elements to see
The sun again without the fear or plan
For action which may alter destiny.
And who they are, or where, these men who stand
For us forever looking through a glass,
We will forget—names, places slip as sand
Into the sea; but many suns will pass
Across the sky before we will forget
A ship, a sunset, and a silhouette.



LOG



MARCH, 1944

Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington . . . pre-commissioning school . . . damaged ships tied up at docks . . . uniformed old hands, young, excited, scared, cocky faces . . . "boot-camp blues" . . . eager ensigns on first assignments . . . baby flattop talk . . . MAKASSAR STRAIT (CVE 91) being born . . . barracks office . . . muster on hilly driveways . . . watch, quarter and station bill . . . drills in yard . . . inspections . . . watches . . . firefighting, gunnery, signal, cooking schools . . . swimming tests . . . liberty trips on ferry . . . "what'll the ship be like?"

APRIL, 1944

Navy Receiving Station, Tacoma, Washington . . . couple weeks' stopover . . . final arrangements, preparations for embarking . . . so long—for awhile . . . train to Tongue Point, Oregon . . . Astoria, the ship around bend on banks of Columbia River . . . new air station . . . early-reporting officers . . . ship at dock . . . pre-commissioning officers' party . . . commissioning ceremony . . . first watch set . . . now it begins.

MAY, 1944

Getting salty at the dock . . . "what call is that?" . . . "where's the toi—head?" . . . "he went down the sta—ladder" . . . "these wal—bulkheads are pretty thin" . . . drills . . . loading supplies . . . wardroom conferences . . . mail censorship . . . quarters for muster . . . liberty in one-horse town . . . Amato's . . . Club 13 . . . Seaside . . . Jack Benny show . . . fish-smell . . . rain . . . anchors aweigh . . . life-jackets . . . Columbia River . . . Pier 91, Seattle . . . deperming . . . measured mile . . . west coast . . . "bucket brigade" . . . "keep your chin up, sailor—you're drooling" . . . "give me a sack and let me die" . . . blimp lands aboard . . . North Island, San Diego.

JUNE, 1944

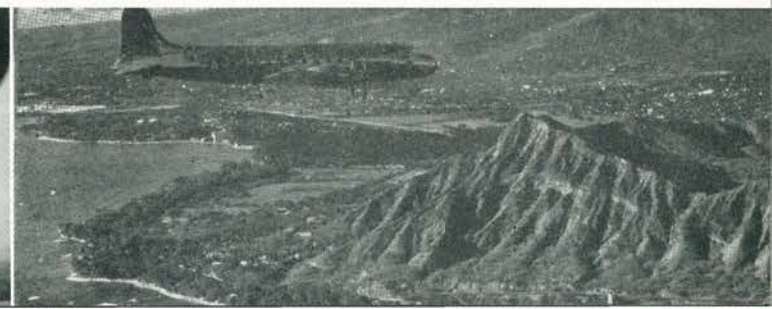
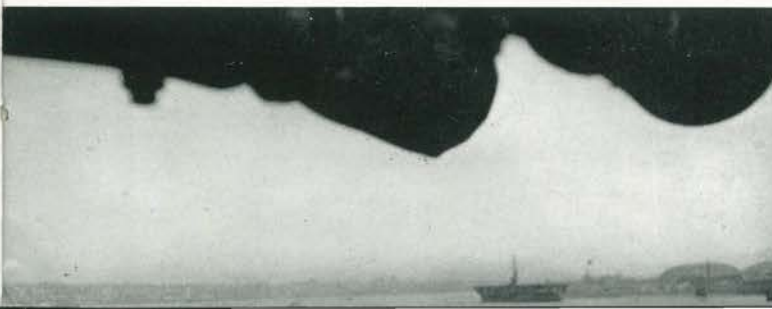
Shakedown . . . simulated dive, torpedo bombing attacks . . . Allies begin invasion of Europe, we begin invasion of Pearl Harbor . . . passengers . . . "all hands conserve fresh water" . . . zigzagging . . . calm seas . . . warm, clear days . . . flying fish . . . mail buoy lookouts . . . Ford Island, or is it North Island? . . . Aloha from white-dressed band . . . sunken hulks in humming harbor . . . swimming pool at dock . . . terraced hills . . . Hawaiian currency . . . Honolulu melting pot . . . bus tours . . . disappointing Waikiki . . . hulu dancers . . . first convoy . . . morning, evening GQs . . . crossed 180th meridian . . . time changes . . . Majuro in Marshalls . . . first atoll . . . swimming parties, featuring beer . . . shell, coconut hunting . . . Jap prisoners—war's getting closer . . . convoy back to Pearl with passengers . . . two-shift movies . . . card games—for small(?) stakes only.

JULY, 1944

Meningitis scare—sulpha lines at scuttlebut . . . anchor pools . . . States . . . American Area and Asiatic Pacific medals—veterans! . . . Repair base, San Diego . . . yard period . . . leave parties ("It was a tough fight, mom") . . . cutting, drilling, welding . . . schools . . . doubling up on deck watches . . . crowded, navy-blue streets . . . ball games at Lane Field . . . party's over, what's next?

AUGUST, 1944

Sea duty—training pilots off Point Loma . . . various exercises . . . TBMs, FMs, Corsairs, launching, landing . . . hard-working "goony birds" . . . searching for wind . . . sightseers on bridge—but not for long . . . "look out, watch this one" . . . "too high, too hard, too fast"





... "howler" ... barrier crash ... twisted prop ... lucky landing, whew! ... fog off "sunny California" coast ... darkened ship ... so many landings, then back to base ... "come on, boys, I got a date"—with a war, too.

SEPTEMBER, 1944

Scuttlebut between and during flight operations ... finally the word ... "goodbye, San Diego, hello Pearl" ... sun-bathing on flight deck ... volleyball, basketball, badminton, catch ... press news, ship's newspaper ... movies starring "woo-woo" whistles ... "USO barge" except for GQs.

OCTOBER, 1944

Heading south, unescorted ... zigzagging ... crossing equator ... "I don't see it yet" ... "Shellback or Pollywog?" ... "You'll be sorry" ... numerically stronger Pollywogs led by arch-conspirator LtCdr Arndt ... special cases ... spirited fights in good fun(?) ... formal ceremony ... King Neptune's Court ... iceberg, flying fish "watches" ... torture contraptions ... running gauntlet ... "Ouch!" ... Shellbacks all, sore-backs most, as over 600 initiated ... Manus, Admiralty Islands ... dense, mountainous jungle ... unloading planes ... liberty parties soaked with beer and rain ... basketball league ... exercises with planes.

NOVEMBER, 1944

Diamondhead ... Royal Hawaiian ... Nimitz Beach ... beautiful, "ballyhulud Hawaii" ... training cruises ... flares, sleeves ... flash "red" ... tennis club ... baseball games ... P Y Chong's steaks, chop-suey ... Moana Hotel ... Kailua ... waiting for the ferry ...

chain-pullers lowering ramp by hand ... pay day before we hit the states—yeah!

DECEMBER, 1944

Diamondhead ... Royal Hawaiian ... pilots, planes, take-offs, landings ... gunnery exercises with drones ... in and out ... crashes into drink ... second pilot lost ... remember Pearl Harbor—three years ago ... Christmas at Ford Island ... fancy feed ... chaplain's party ... "Santa Claus" Houser ... gift line ... "Wonder what they're doing home" ... "Well, it won't be long before some more of that stateside duty" ... "one more time out—that's the straight dope" ... scuttlebut a la Peterson ... night flight operations on New Year's eve.

JANUARY, 1945

Diamondhead ... Royal Hawaiian ... "My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time" ... Captain Berner relieved by Commander (later Captain) Riley ... Admiral Jennings aboard ... Jato experiments ... recognition, tactical instruction ... VC-97 comes aboard—our own squadron ... here comes the war ... kiss the girls goodbye—by letter ... Waves trickle in as we leave ... suddenly Hawaii looks pretty good.

FEBRUARY, 1945

Convoy ... launching Cap ... catapulting ... first-aid lectures ... something brewing ... ssh, security ... enemy subs ... Eniwetok ... supply ships ... flat, coral reefs, no vegetation ... quonset huts ... air strip ... PBY base ... TG 50.8 ... USS Detroit ... course Northwest ... trailing sub ... rendezvous with TF 58 ... station keeping ... fueling at sea for Tokyo strike ... our planes sink Jap coastal lugger, six Jap prisoners





taken . . . tanker explosion . . . fast, furious talk on TBS . . . cool nights—only advantage of being north . . . Iwo Jima operation commences . . . logistic support . . . thirty miles from Iwo . . . sound of gunfire . . . smoke clouds . . . bogey scares . . . B-29s . . . anxious hours . . . church attendance improves . . . damage reports—glad we're not any closer.

MARCH, 1945

Sailing south . . . pock-marked, Jap-filled cliffs of Apra Harbor, Guam . . . incomplete breakwater . . . war ruins . . . building program . . . Gab Gab Beach . . . plane replacements . . . Ulithi's enormous, so called "harbor" . . . Fifth Fleet . . . long, drenching boat trips to beach . . . beer party on roped-off flight deck . . . heat . . . mail! . . . March 10th: abandon-ship drill in movies . . . GQ at same time . . . mad rush to battle stations . . . Jap "Kamakazes" . . . Randolph hit . . . watched fire . . . pretty close . . . movies continued . . . carrier-tanker-destroyer-escort convoy . . . logistics . . . refueling . . . mines detonated . . . sub rammed . . . 10,000th landing . . . mail, movies, from destroyers alongside.

APRIL, 1945

L-Day . . . Invasion of Okinawa . . . edge of hurricane . . . 21 degree roll . . . combat support duty . . . "first team" . . . Purple Heart ceremony . . . air defense—in earnest . . . TU 52.1.2 . . . early morning debut: ready to launch planes at 0330 . . . "3" should have read "5"—"get the Comm Officer" . . . eager-beaver pilots . . . rocket, bombing, strafing attacks over Okinawa . . . "Well done" from Admiral Stump . . . star shells, gun flashes at night over island . . . news "feud" between "communicate" Cochran and editor Jones . . . Sakishima attacks . . . frequent bogey GQs . . . "gallop-

ing ghost of Nansei Shoto" . . . Captain announces FDR's death . . . shock, political speculation, colors at half-mast . . . memorial church service, address by Captain Riley, personal friend of president . . . first plane shot down . . . Lt. Waters rescued by "Dumbo" . . . war hits home: Lt. Tebo, Tuggle AOM 1/c, Loyd, ARM 3/c missing in action . . . April 16th: picturesque, deadly peaks, terraces of Kerama Retto . . . tense replenishment, guns manned . . . sandwich-lemonade lunch . . . underway . . . steaks for supper, mail for desert . . . sudden GQ . . . Jap planes attacking Kerama . . . dusk . . . fighters in landing circle . . . bogey on screen . . . planes tipped off, swerve . . . visual fighter direction by Lt. (jg) Fellows . . . "Jill" coming in to launch tin-fish . . . Lt. (jg) Riggan dives, misses . . . Jap opens up guns two miles from ship, reveals position . . . Riggan dives again, does not miss . . . Jill flames, crashes, burns off starboard bow to cheers from ship . . . Mak has closest call, first Jap flag . . . "now, where's that sugar report?" . . . unit rejoined, gladly . . . support operations . . . second, uneventful visit to Kerama Retto . . . April 27th: ship's first birthday party . . . reveille in swingtime . . . free ice cream . . . TU 52.1.1.

MAY, 1945

Star for Iwo Jima campaign confirmed . . . Block Island's difficulties . . . Sangamon hit at Kerama . . . orders foul-up . . . Lt. pilot Connelly lost in motor-conk-out crash . . . VC-97 joins Shipley Bay (CVE 85) at Kerama . . . Whew! . . . "Well done, and Godspeed" . . . war ends in Europe . . . "how much longer in Pacific?" . . . "Rope-Yarn Sunday" holiday . . . "turn to or in" . . . "respot" . . . a new Guam . . . land after 60 days of practically continuous steaming . . . belated birthday party, basketball game with Shamrock Bay . . . we eat again . . . training off Guam . . . sun-bathing, flight deck





recreation between flights . . . B-29s on way to, from Tokyo . . . topside walks in cool night air . . . sponson singing . . . 48 hour rest-camp party . . . talk of going home.

JUNE, 1945

Guam . . . rearming boat runs . . . Apollo stage show . . . Red Cross recreation building, women . . . "Gab Gab Bowl" . . . more rest-camp parties . . . "push-push in bush-bush Marie" . . . "both mother and daughter working for the Yankee dollah" . . . Saipan . . . marine camps and cemeteries . . . cliffs . . . "superfort" fields . . . hurricane-hit ships in Apra . . . transport trip with White Plains (CVE 66) . . . planes, pilots to Leyte . . . small, dense, green Philippine Islands . . . Halsey's Third Fleet . . . Guiuan, Samar, for planes . . . native village . . . beautiful, ancient church . . . Jap invasion money . . . volleyball league.

JULY, 1945

Saipan . . . Fourth of July dinner . . . near-miss from anchor-dragging DD . . . Marianas operating area . . . escorted by Williamson . . . "this is getting monotonous—but it could be a lot worse" . . . library booms . . . 13,000th landing, usual free ice cream, cake, cigarettes . . . Roi in Marshalls . . . captain's inspection in whites . . . Captain Lambrecht relieves Captain Riley . . . finally, Pearl Harbor!

AUGUST, 1945

Diamondhead . . . Royal Hawaiian . . . "are we glad to see you!" . . . clock search, liberty delayed—but not for long . . . Honolulu . . . milk, bananas, pineapples, women . . . Waves . . . flight operations off Oahu . . .

USO shows . . . "Hulu" Houser . . . atomic bomb headlines . . . Russia declares war on Japan . . . rumors of Jap surrender . . . wild, premature harbor fireworks . . . shouting, singing, hugging, whooping on flight deck . . . captain's "calm-down-until-confirmed" speech . . . long radio sessions . . . confirmation . . . anti-climactic celebration . . . Waves hold jubilee in barracks . . . peace thanksgiving service . . . underway for home half-hour after official word given—best timing of campaign! . . . drills . . . medical assistance to LSM(R) enroute . . . captain's inspection . . . Point Loma, after 10 months, 27 days . . . Commander Jonson relieved by Commander Gjoerloff . . . flight operation—still . . . 14,000th landing . . . "where's that yard?"

SEPTEMBER, 1945

Leaves . . . court-martial resumes business . . . censorship ends . . . flight quarters . . . training pilots, southern sector, Western Sea Frontier . . . 15,000th landing . . . North Island, piers "Fox," "George," "Item," "Jig" . . . ferry dashes . . . red or green bus . . . stateside movies . . . Naval Repair Base, temporarily . . . officer's party at club . . . "Battle of Broadway" . . . Paul's Inn . . . Grant Hotel . . . Sherman's . . . Paris Inn . . . Obie's.

OCTOBER, 1945

Dry Dock No. 1 . . . plastic paint on bottom . . . sprouting of lieutenant commanders from overdue alnav . . . ship's party at Navy Athletic Field . . . keeping 'em flying . . . more leave . . . regular yard period . . . CIC, gunnery, fire-fighting schools . . . "hey, the war's over!" . . . officers, men begin leaving on points, transfers . . . 778 bunks placed on hangar deck . . . CVE (T) . . . new movie equipment, screen . . . Navy Day visits to dressed-up ship.





NOVEMBER, 1945

Leaves cut . . . pier "Oboe" . . . "Magic Carpet" duty . . . rough, rolling trip to Pearl on seemingly empty ship . . . fire, abandon-ship, air-defense drills—for morale . . . Bishop's Point . . . passengers . . . wardroom cigar mess formed by "Cookie" . . . undarkened ship . . . Kwajalein . . . busy day loading passengers . . . underway for San Francisco—"Golden Gate in Forty Ei—Six!" . . . cards . . . books . . . chow, water lines . . . "Tents" on flight deck . . . basketball, volleyball, medicine ball games . . . hot three-piece band, accent on drums, starring "Moe" . . . stowaway search . . . diversion to San Diego . . . Navy pier . . . unloading excitement . . . harrassed OD.

DECEMBER, 1945

North Island, pier "Peter" . . . AOLs report back . . . long, long passengerless trip to Guam . . . Ship's company buttons . . . Pacific map painted on side of elevator pit . . . holiday greeting telegrams . . . Apra Harbor . . . 1133 passengers . . . mines in track . . . "Glow-worms" in water . . . second overseas Christmas . . . tree on hangar deck, in wardroom . . . carol singing . . . Christmas service and chow . . . missing-gun commotion . . . New Year log poetry contest.

JANUARY, 1946

At sea—New Year celebration postponed . . . "B" street pier, San Diego . . . "Magic Carpet" duty completed . . . Mak goes in "mothballs" . . . Golden Gate . . . Alcatraz . . . Bay Bridge . . . Naval air station, Alameda . . . Frisco liberty . . . top of the Mark . . . Finocchio's . . . ammunition dumped . . . Puget Sound . . . fog over Tacoma—here we are again . . . anchored in Commencement Bay . . . starboard side to pier No. 4,

Todd Shipyards . . . we're SOPA . . . shore patrol . . . Truex shines in tough town . . . hangovers, other headaches . . . jeep accidents . . . inventories . . . check-off lists . . . slopes of Mount Rainier in background on clear day.

FEBRUARY, 1946

Preservation schools . . . rain . . . scraping, chipping, painting . . . "do it over" . . . rust, rust, and more rust . . . shipping-over notices . . . basketball games . . . league formed, Mak takes lead for awhile . . . Seattle liberty . . . officer's cocktail party at Winthrop . . . Pappy's Cabin . . . Derby Club . . . 19th Fleet Inspection party . . . accent on housecleaning . . . Captain Gjoerloff relieves Captain Lambrecht . . . working day extended, but three-section liberty for crew . . . cauliflower-in-sewer smell . . . area working parties—all rates . . . hamburgers, milk, ice cream from Smitty's . . . Gate 8 . . . "Ski's" ski parties . . . visits to Canada . . . Chiefs move topside to clear compartments.

MARCH, 1946

Increasing number of separatees . . . "Who's going to do the work?" . . . pressure's on—three section shore leave for officers . . . "Chipper" Houser . . . Desk on quarterdeck . . . permanent day-time OD . . . not many plankowners left . . . newsboys . . . testing general alarm—perhaps for last time . . . draft of "boots" come aboard . . . 19th Fleet basketball tournament . . . Mak reaches finals, loses to Copahee . . . ship's parties on flag-filled, balloon-clustered hangar deck . . . classy Fort Lewis band . . . women, ice cream, cake, soft(?) drinks . . . yard period at Everett or Bremerton rumored for April . . . Bremerton will complete two-year cycle . . . this is where we came in.





Flight Quarters

See how they glide, these birds
of dream and science

Wings of the Mighty Mak, the wings
that gave

Her purpose, courage, will, strength,
and defiance,

That made her both a master and a
slave—

Master of stop-watch timing, man with
plane,

From launchings, landings fifteen-thousand-
fold;

Slave to the changing wind, the fog and
rain—

The elements that could not be controlled.

But slave or master, we have seen them rise,

Fly in formation, dip their wings, and soar,

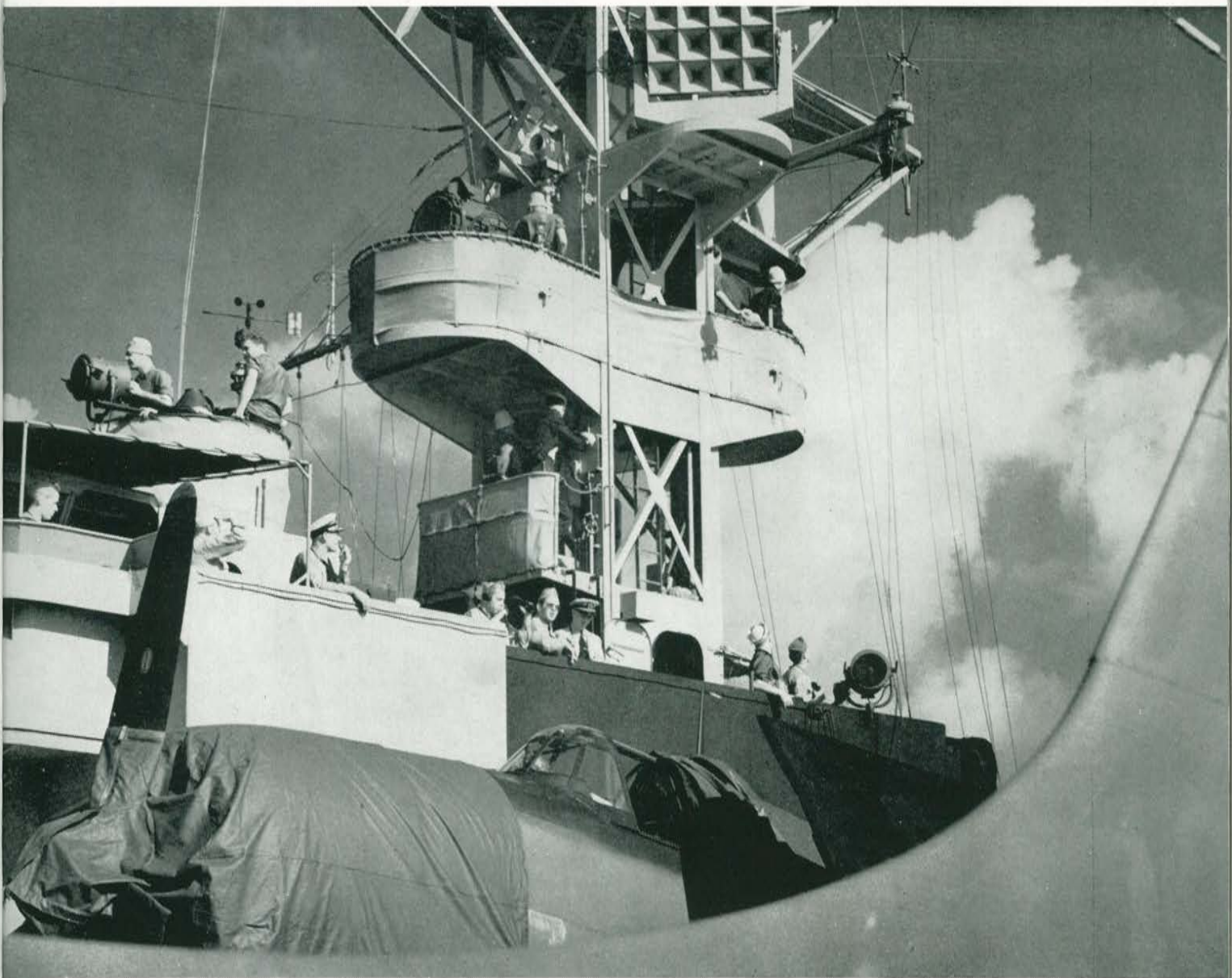
With fear and pride and wonder in our eyes—

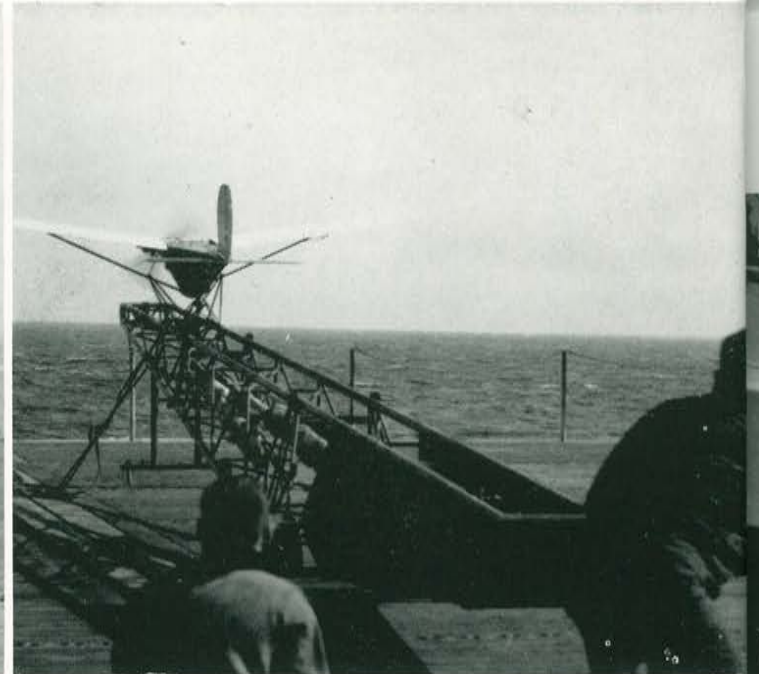
And now we cheer and wave them in once more—

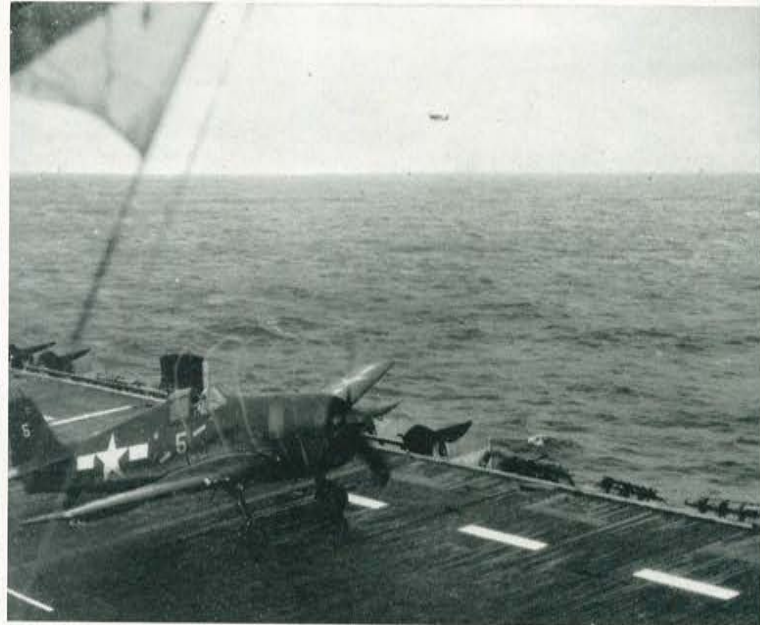
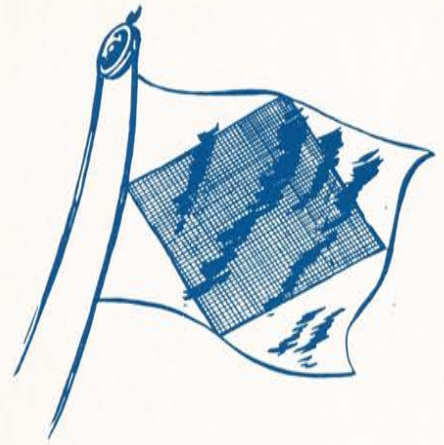
The planes that took the Mak into the air,

“Wildcat,” “Avenger,” “Hellcat,” and “Corsair.”

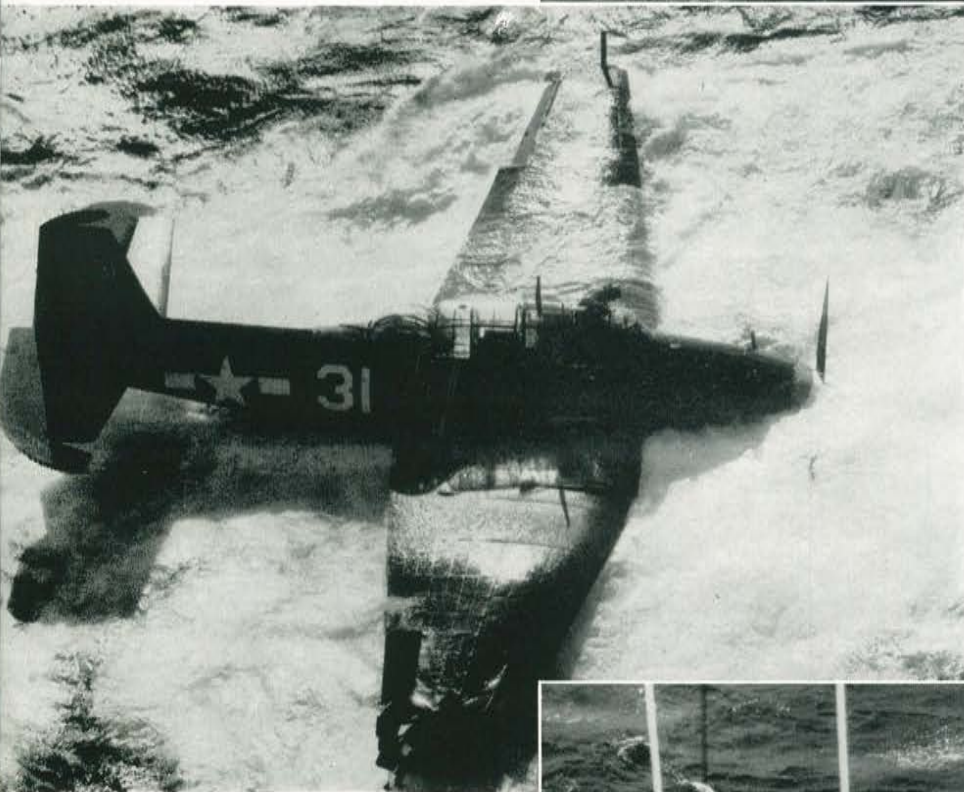








Flight Operations

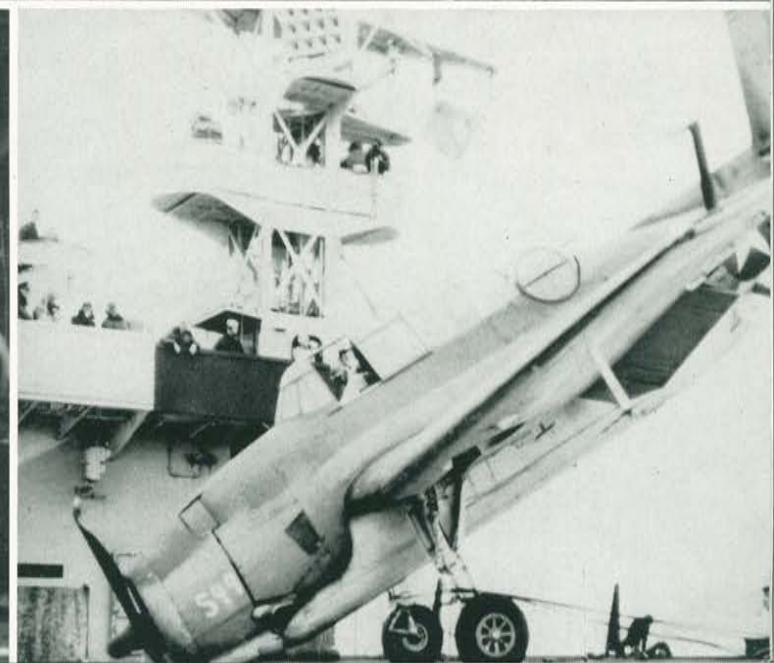


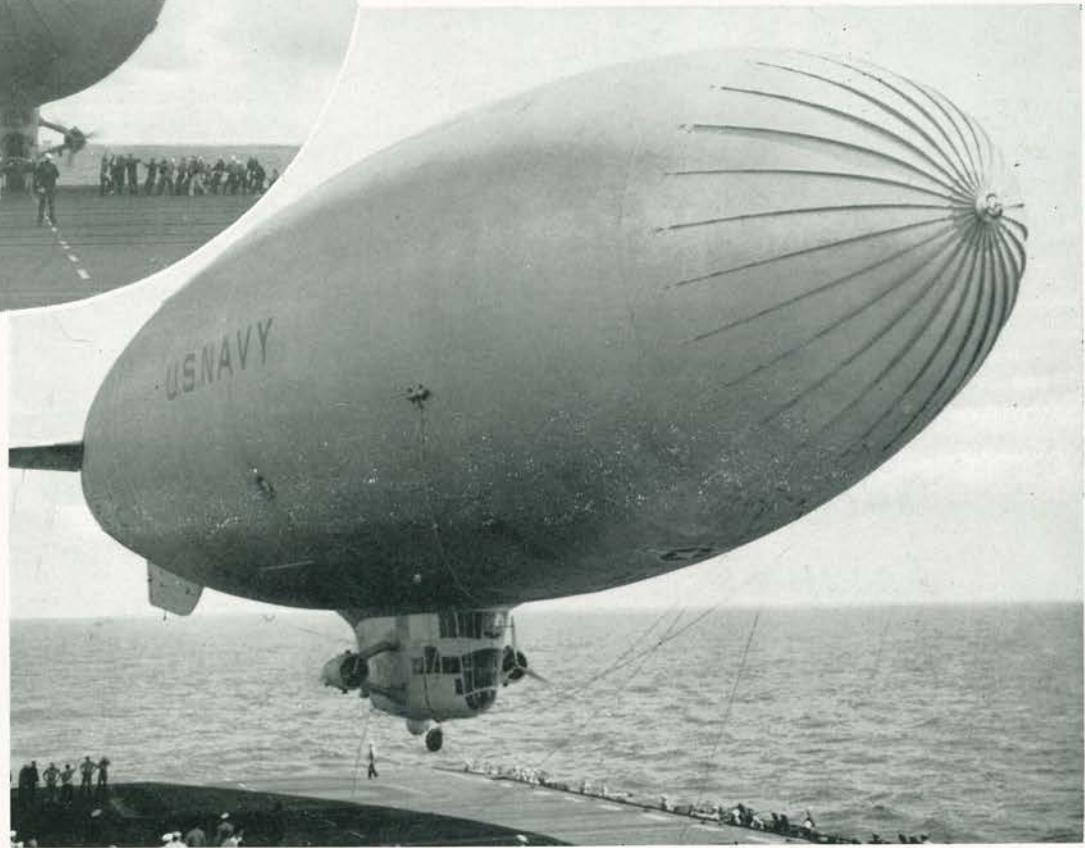
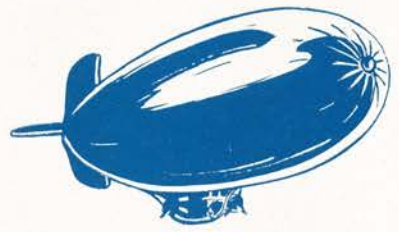
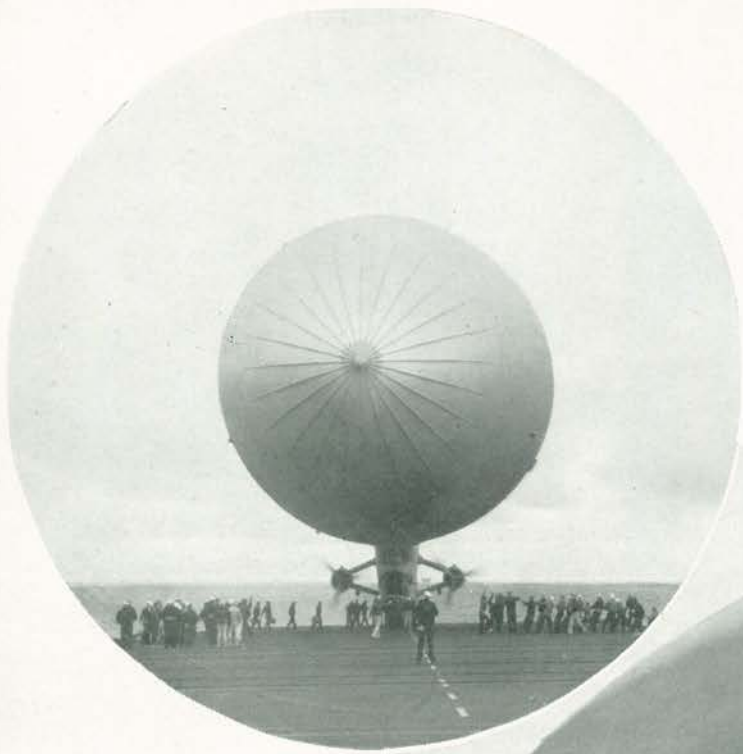
*Water
Crash!*





*Narrow
Escapes!*





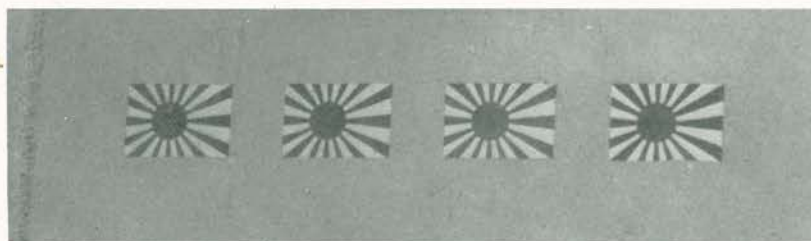
CHOSEN TO SERVE AS A
BLIMP LANDING FIELD
IN THE NAVY'S ANTI-
SUBMARINE AND
TRANSPORT PATROLS
THE "MAK" MAKES
ANOTHER FIRST.



"JATO"
JET-ASSISTED TAKE-
OFFS WERE PIONEERED
ABOARD THE "MIGHTY
MAK"

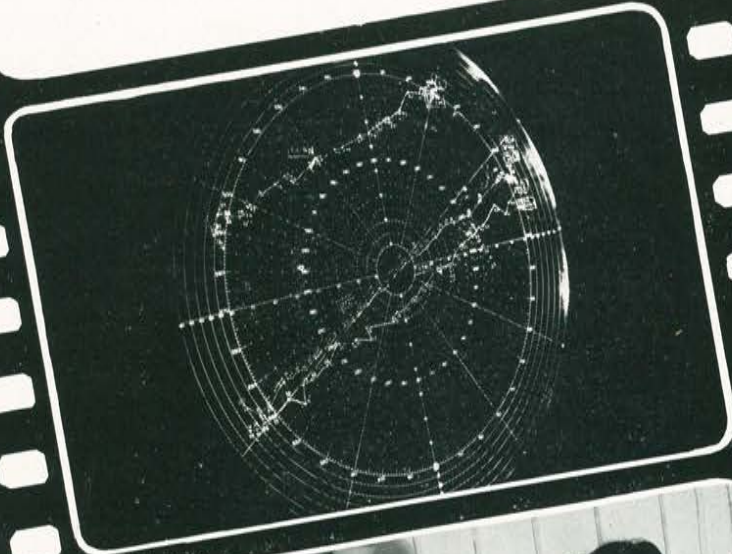


SQUADRON VC-97



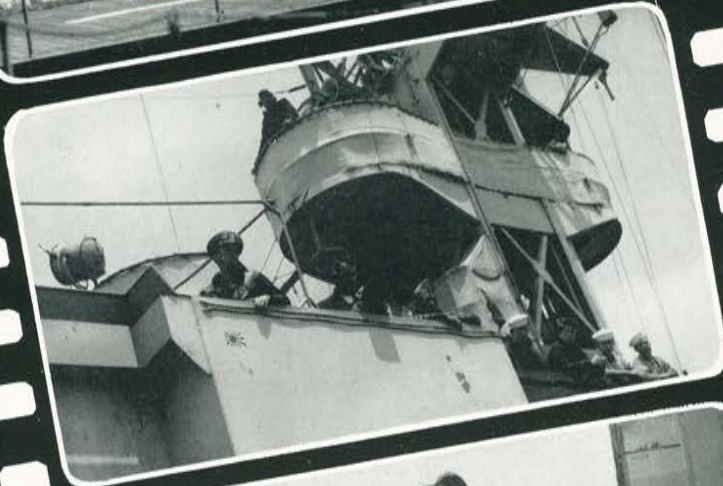
Squadron Commander: Lt. Cmdr. Mark T. Whittier.
 Complement: 50 Officers, 52 Men.
 Date came aboard: January 28, 1945.
 Place came aboard: Pearl Harbor.
 Date left Ship: May 7, 1945.
 Operations: Logistic support, Iwo Jima
 Direct support, Okinawa
 and Sakishima Gunto.
 Planes credited: 4.

Story *of a* Mission











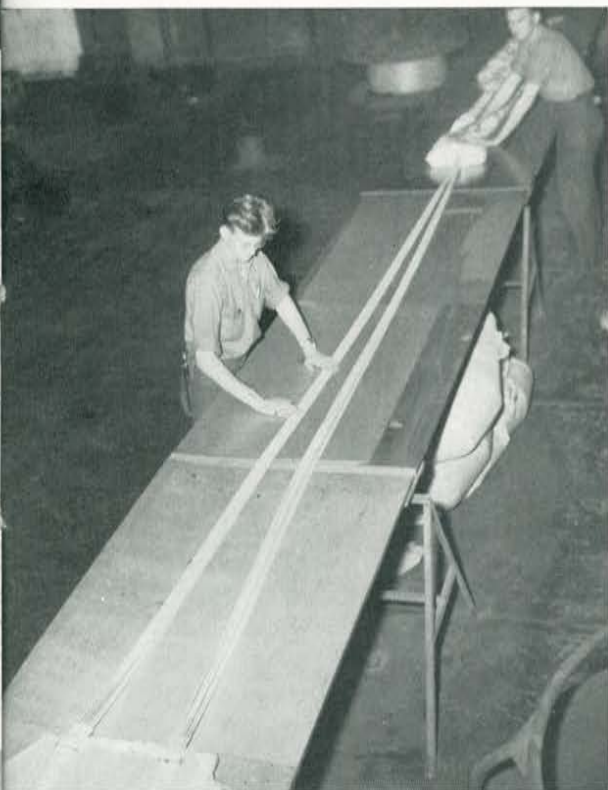
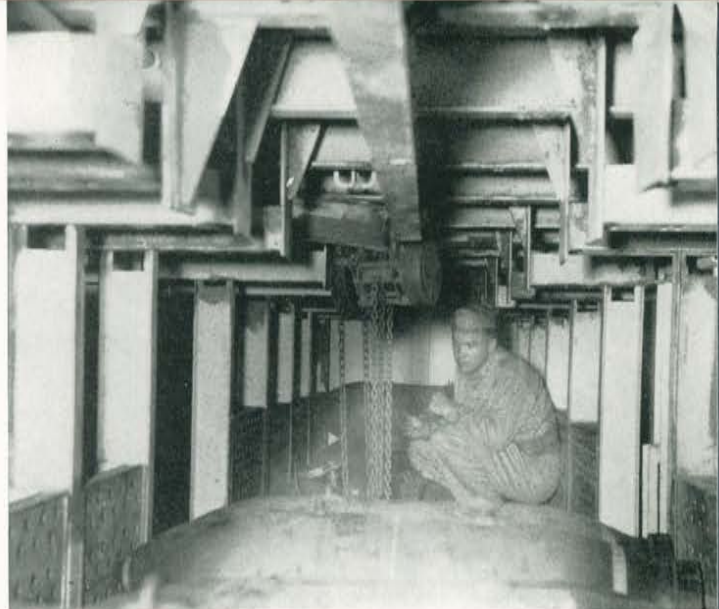
PARACHUTE LOFT

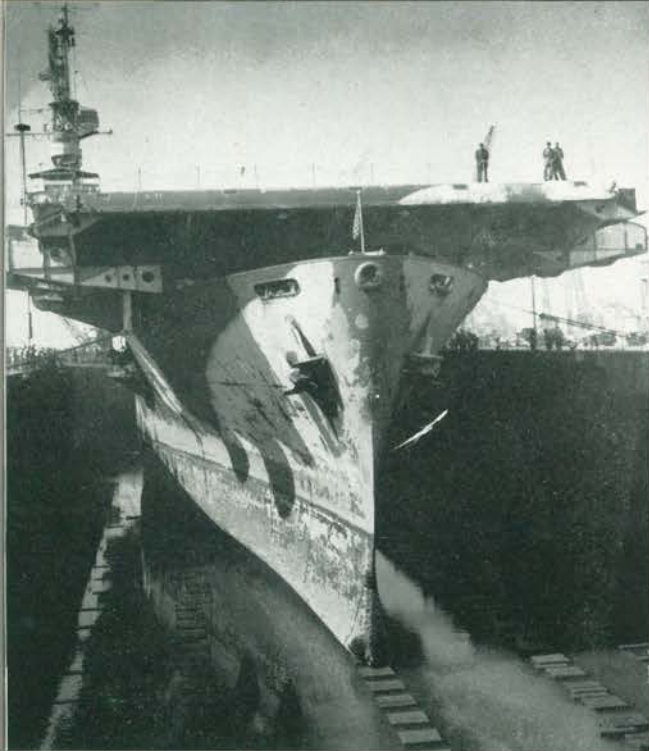
BOMB STOWAGE

BOMB RACKED

ROCKETS RIGGED

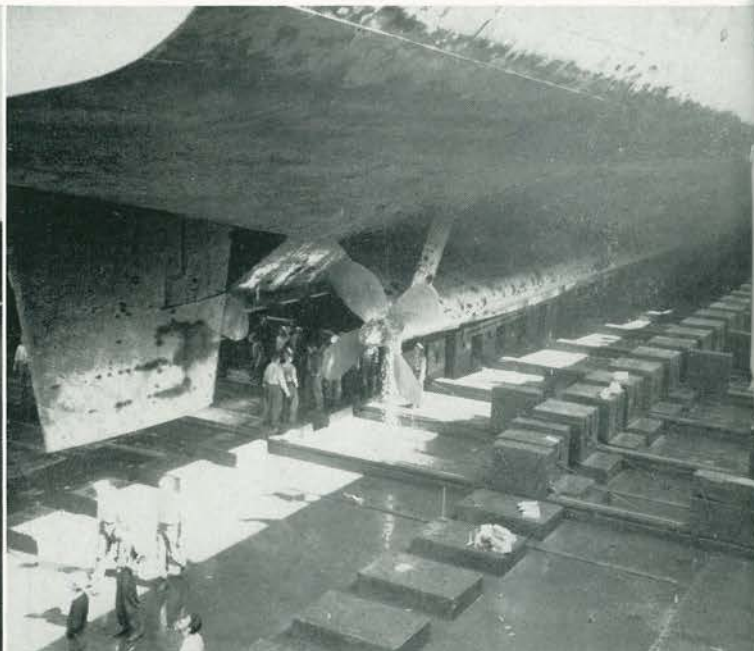
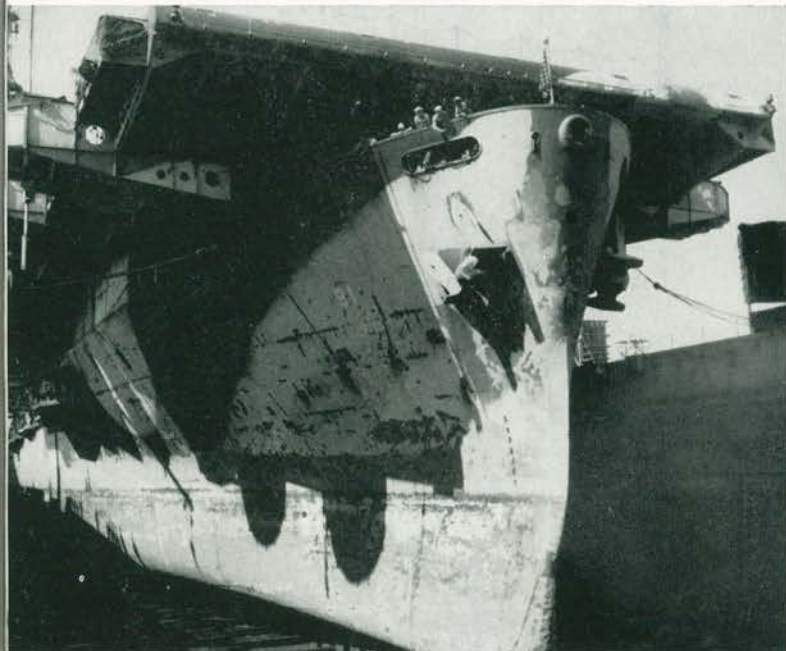
ENGINE REPAIR



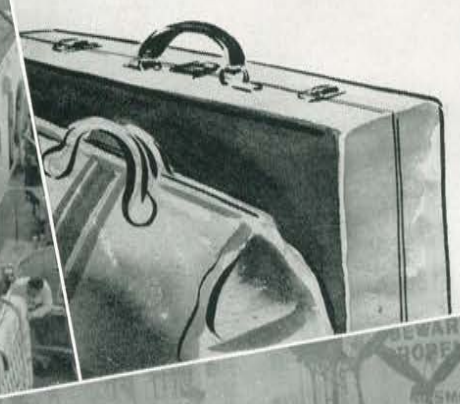
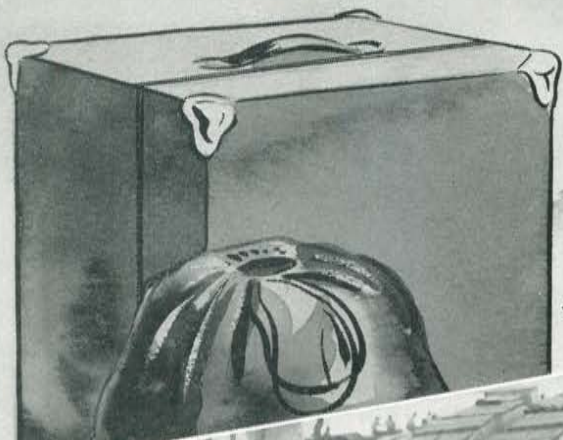


Drydock

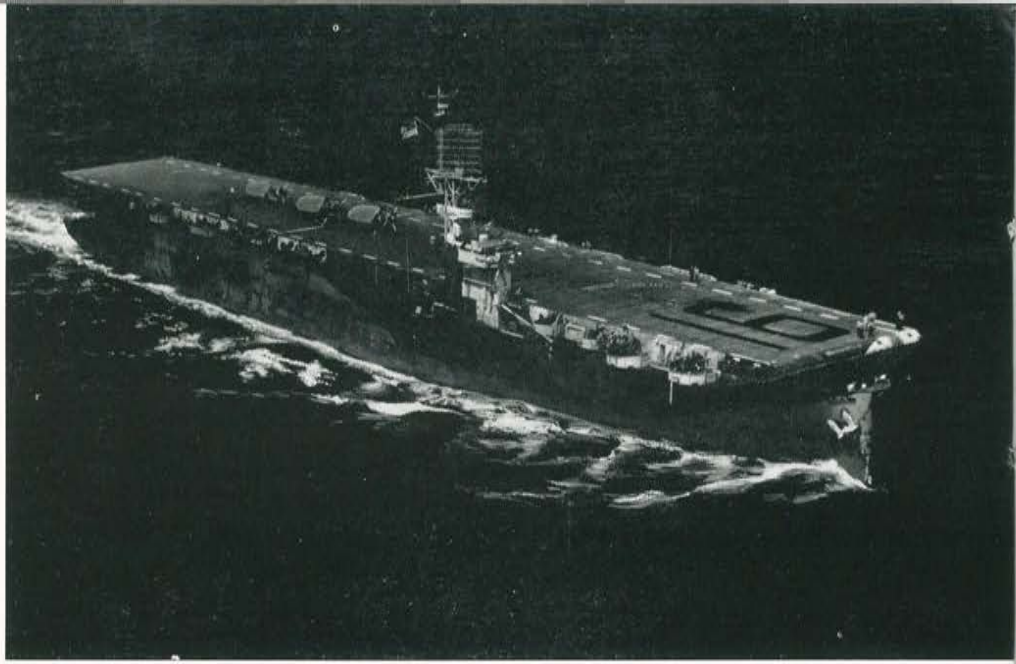
Scuttlebutt on the Mak revolved largely around the topic of navy yard availability—not because of any particular love of navy yards, but rather because such periods usually meant state-side duty and leave. These pictures show the ship in dry dock at San Diego getting her bottom scraped and painted with barnacle-resisting plastic compound.



MAGIC CARPET



MOVING AHEAD



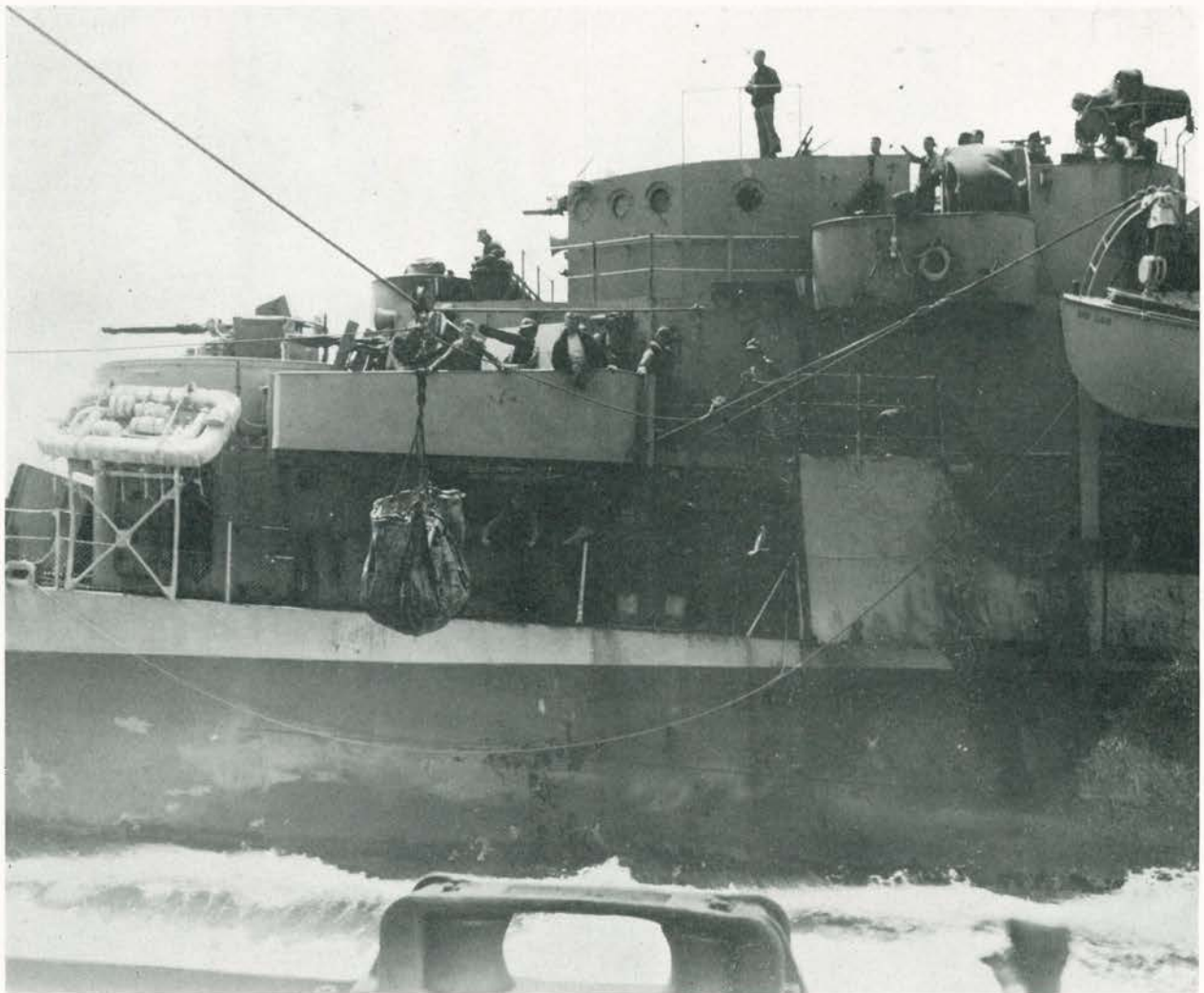
"GO"

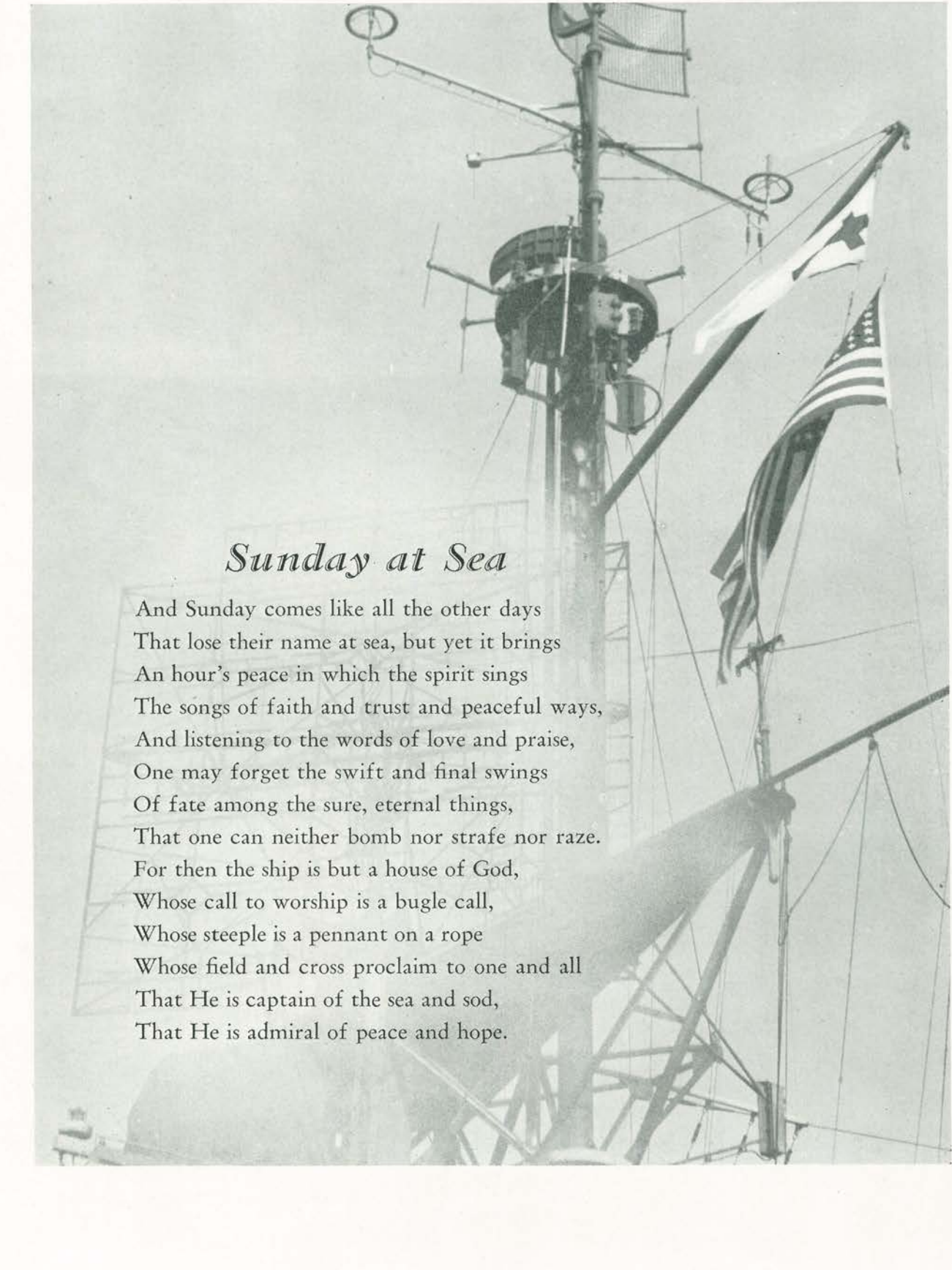
INTO THE WIND



Mail Delivery

The weeks pass, disconnected, loveless, bare
Of things the heart would cling to. Eat-work-sleep
According to the same impersonal plan—
Of-the-day would work its torture on a man
Who had no roots in the sea, whose thoughts would leap
Across the water to home, and day-dream there
At the sound of a half-forgotten popular song,
The sight of a smiling, dog-eared photograph,
Remembrance of a funny little laugh—
Links to another world through a year-long
Drought amidst the dulling and draining sea.
And then from out of somewhere suddenly
A line connects the present with the past,
And there is hope and love and life at last.



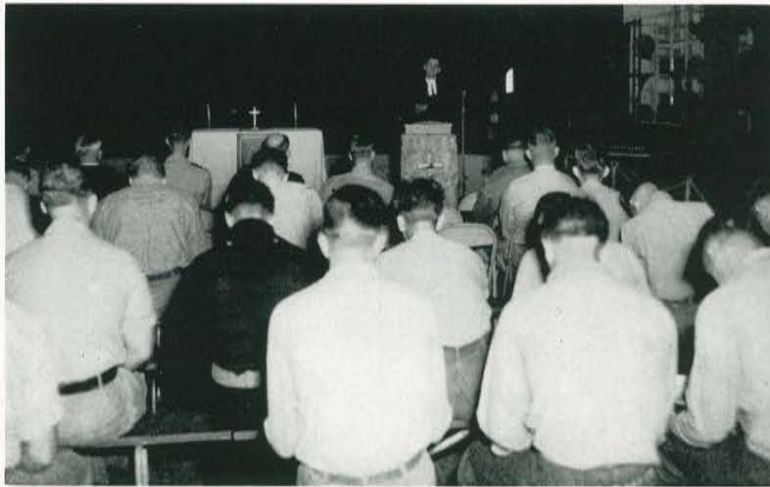
A black and white photograph of a ship's mast. The mast is the central vertical structure, with various rigging and equipment attached. At the top, there is a cross pennant (a white flag with a black cross) and the United States flag. The background is a clear sky. The text of the poem is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Sunday at Sea

And Sunday comes like all the other days
That lose their name at sea, but yet it brings
An hour's peace in which the spirit sings
The songs of faith and trust and peaceful ways,
And listening to the words of love and praise,
One may forget the swift and final swings
Of fate among the sure, eternal things,
That one can neither bomb nor strafe nor raze.
For then the ship is but a house of God,
Whose call to worship is a bugle call,
Whose steeple is a pennant on a rope
Whose field and cross proclaim to one and all
That He is captain of the sea and sod,
That He is admiral of peace and hope.



CHAPLAIN L. JACK GRAY, USNR



CHAPLAIN JOHN FREEMONT MERRILL, USNR



U. S. S. MAKASSAR



STRAIT [CVE-91]

USO Barge

THE BOYS DO SOME
GRASS-SKIRT JITTERBUGGING
AT USO SHOW IN PEARL



"HULU" HOUSER SHOWS THAT
THERE'S LIFE IN THE OLD BOY YET



USO TROUP HAS DINNER WITH
CREW AFTER THE SHOW



Musical Activity

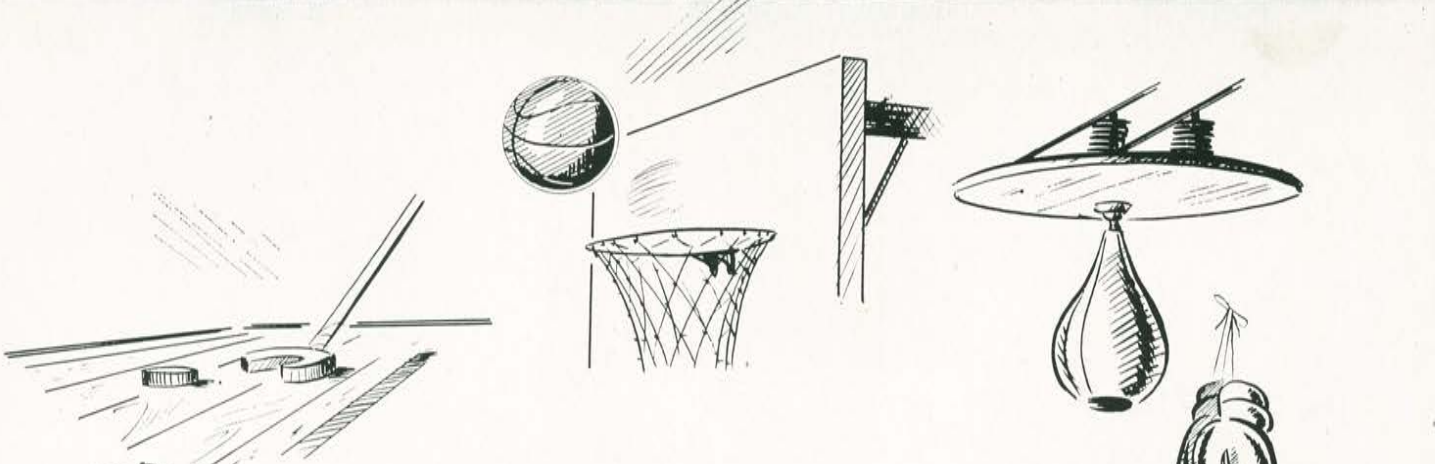
"MOE" LIMA
DOES A KRUPA



THE APOLLO
"ORACLES"
ENTERTAIN AT
GUAM.—"SO
ROUND, SO FIRM,
SO FULLY PACKED,
SO FLAT AND
HEAVY ON THE
FEET."



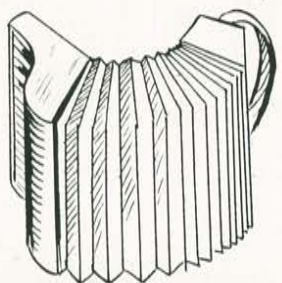
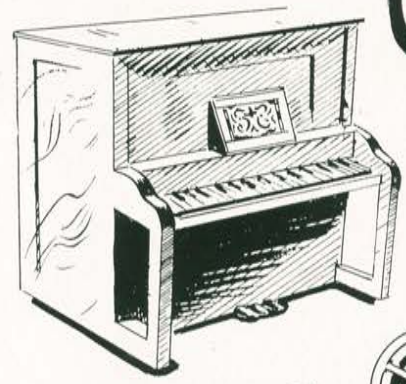
THE HILL BILLY SONGSTERS



BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

DIVISION SECTION DATE

- V-1 *Port* Dec. '44
- K *Yeoman* Dec. '45
- Officers *Third* Dec. '45





19TH FLEET, TACOMA



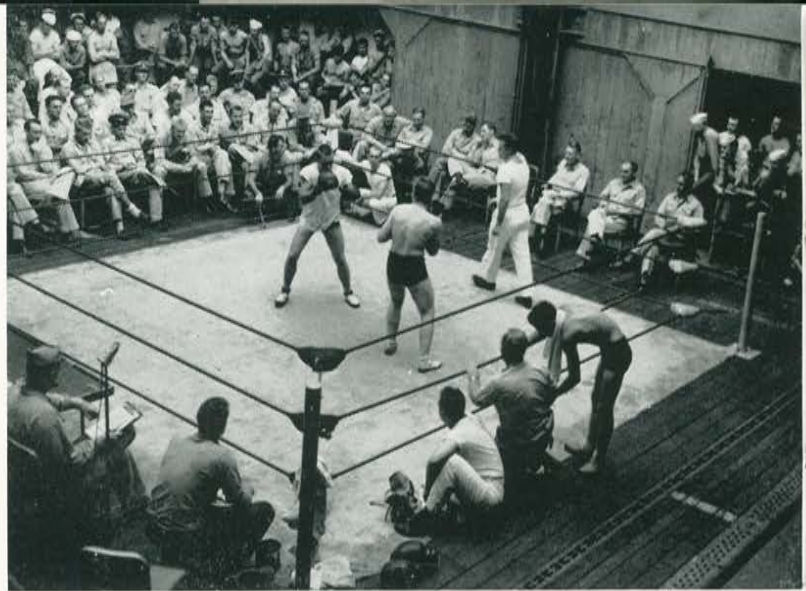
RUNNERS-UP



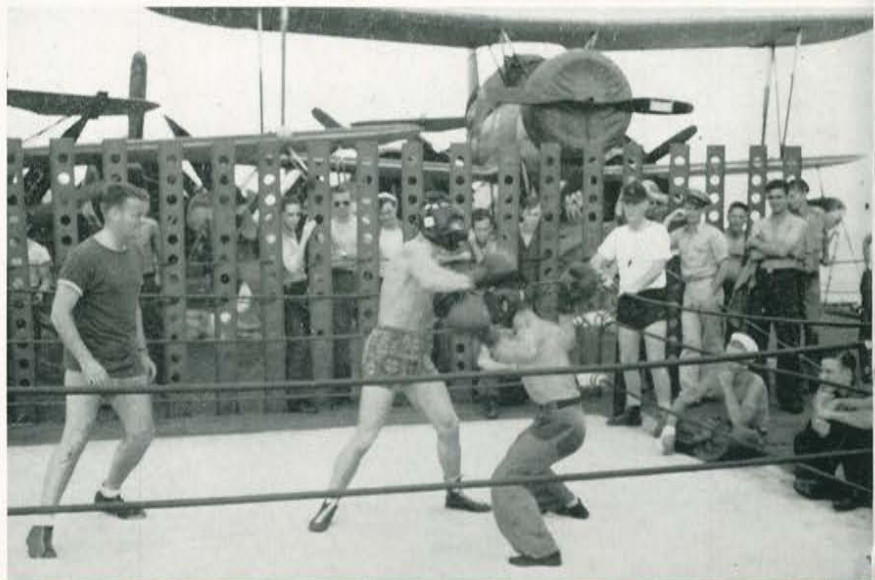
V-1 '44 CHAMPS



YEOMEN '45 CHAMPS



CVE-91 AND VC-97
BOXING AND WRESTLING
CHAMPS



Crossing the Equator





IMPERIVM NEPTVNI REGIS

TO ALL SHIPS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, *and to all the world, Water, Sea, Air, Earth,*
 do hereby certify that on the 14th day of July, 1944, in full view of the undersigned, *and in full view of the undersigned,*
 there appeared within Our Royal Majesty the King of the Netherlands, *and in full view of the undersigned,*
 the undersigned of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands.

That the said vessel and all persons and cargo therein have been inspected and found to be in conformity with the Royal Decree of the 14th day of July, 1944, and that the said vessel and all persons and cargo therein are in conformity with the said Decree.

Ralph W. Arnold

having been found worthy to be made part of our Treaty, the said vessel has been duly admitted into the
SOLIMEN MYSTERIUM OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE DEEP
 To It For this Undertaking, that by virtue of the power invested in me, I do hereby command
 all my subjects to show due honor and respect to him who may be
 Disobey this order under penalty of Our Royal Displeasure
 Given under our hand and seal this 14th day of July, 1944.

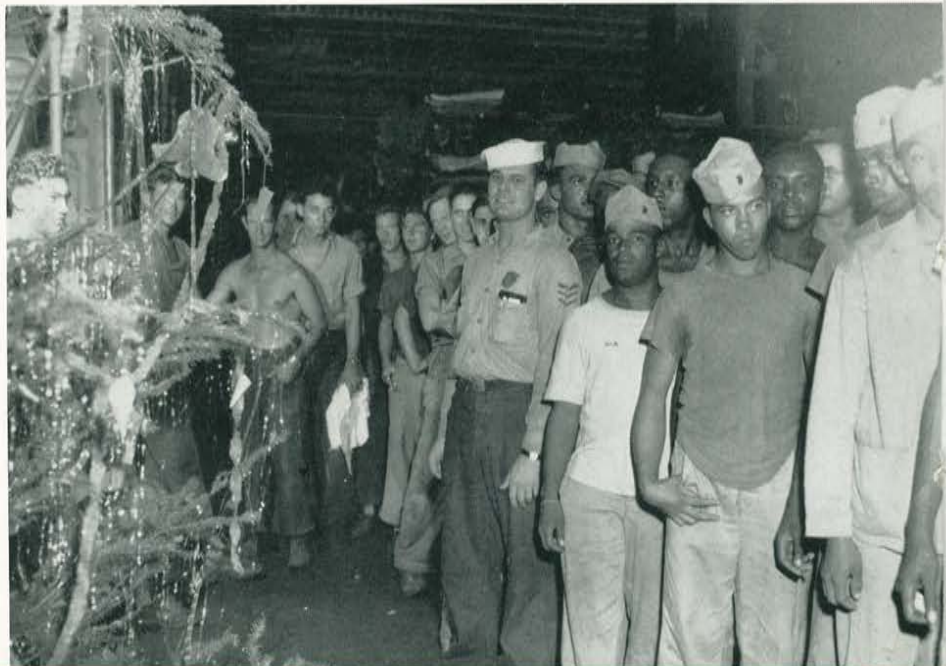
Neptunus Rex
 Ruler of the Floating Main
 By His Majesty, *W. B. ...* Captain

Exceyptus
 His Majesty's Officer



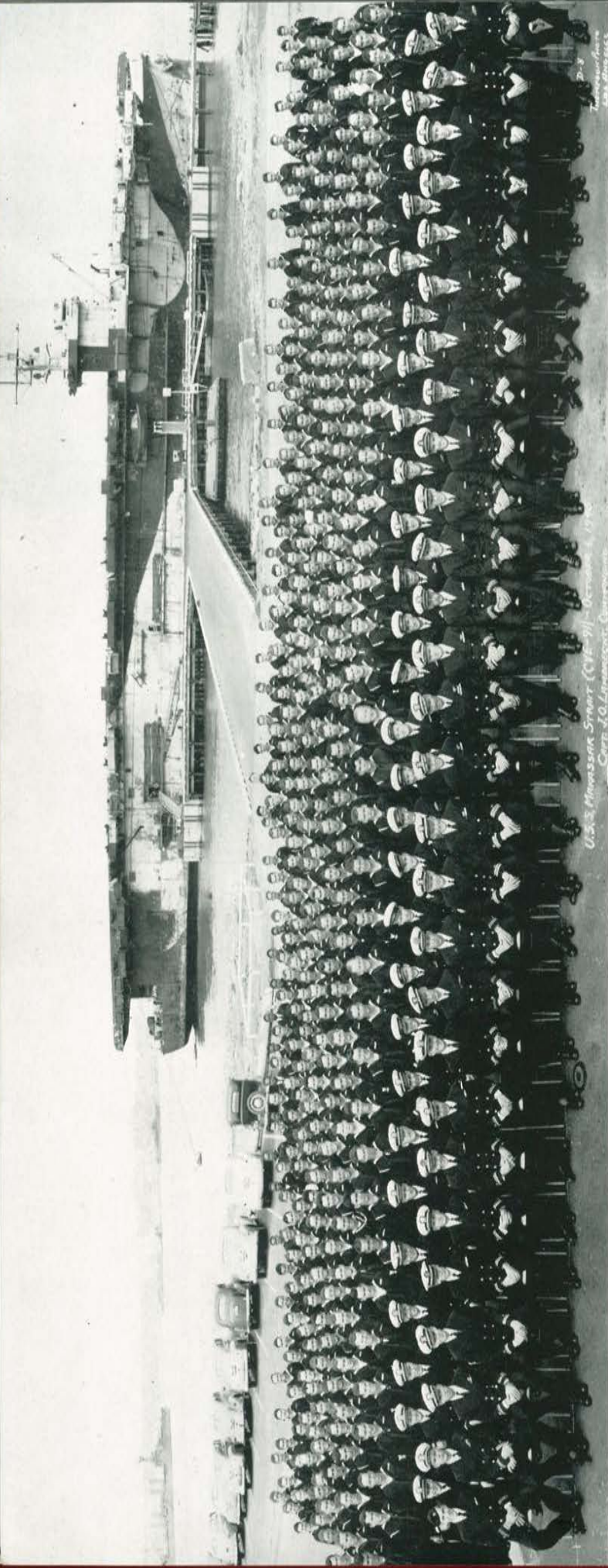


*Christmas
at Sea*





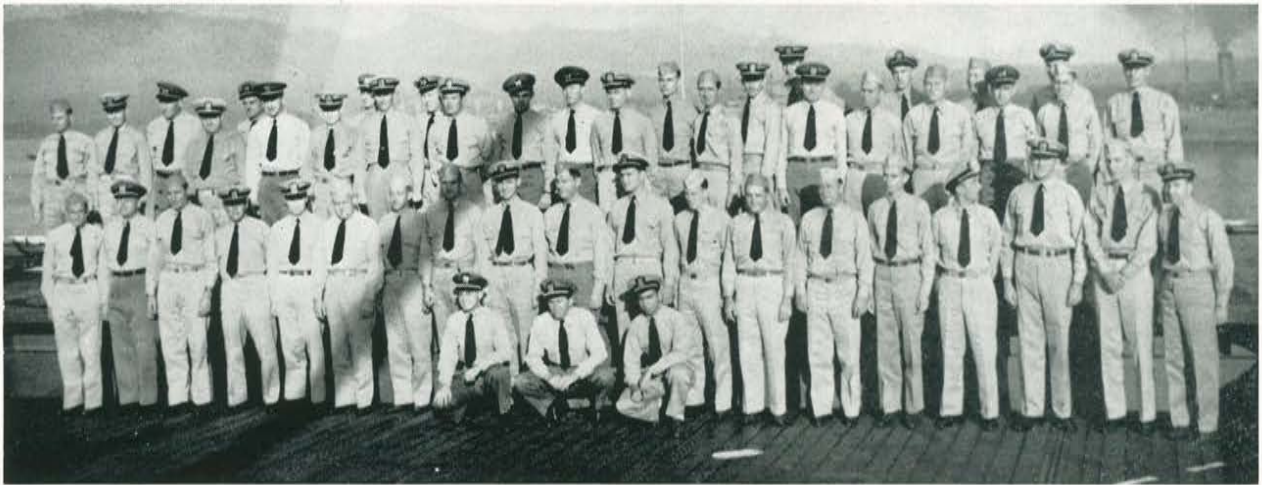
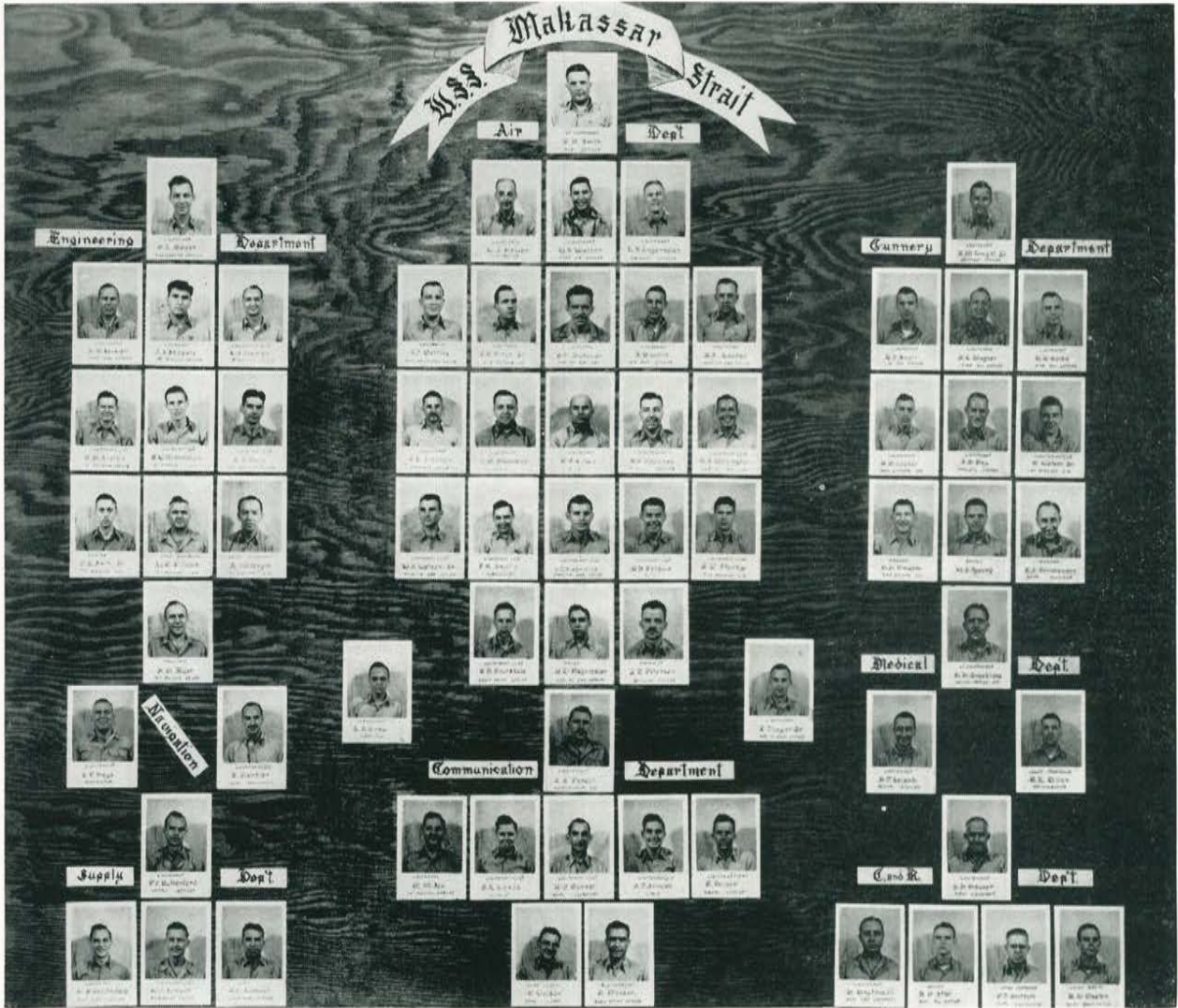
What is a ship? Not just a mass of steel,
Floating machinery standardized by test,
Propelled by blades and guided by a wheel,
Single-functioned robot, devoid of zest—
A ship is a place of work and play and rest,
A home, store, office, shop, and factory,
Where each man does the task he knows the best,
A crowded little city on the sea;
A juke-box, movie house, and bakery,
Work-room, radio station, cafe, court,
A hospital, post office, and a free
Barber-shop, fountain, arsenal, and fort—
A ship is what its men think, feel, and do;
The mighty Mak is you and you and you.



U. S. S. MAKASSAR STRAIT CVE-91
PIER 1, NORTH ISLAND, SAN DIEGO, CAL.



OCTOBER 6, 1945
CAPTAIN JOHN O. LAMBRECHT, COMMANDING



Chief's



Quarters



5 CHIEFS IN A BOAT



CHIEF'S CHOW *INITIATION



CAPT. RILEY AT CHIEF'S MESS



CAPT. LAMBRECHT EATING
NEW YEAR'S DINNER WITH THE CHIEFS



TAILOR SHOP



LAUNDRY



"GEDUNK" STAND



EARS LOWERED



BAKE SHOP

MEAT SHOP

GALLEY

CHOW

CHOW LINE



COOKS AND BAKERS



"OUR BOYS"



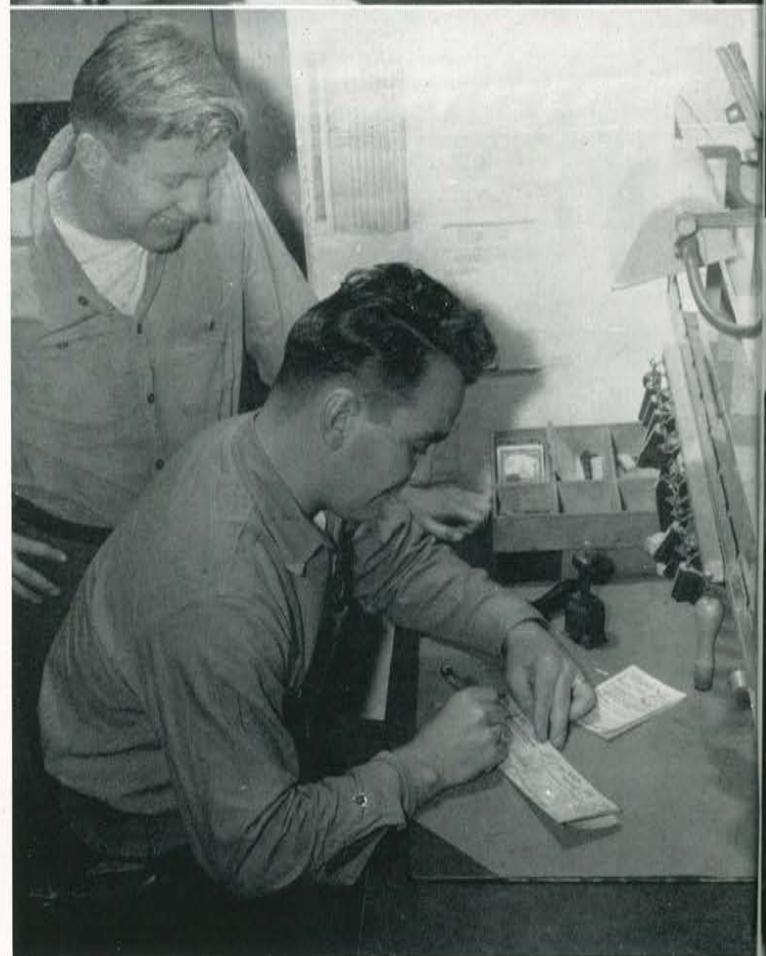
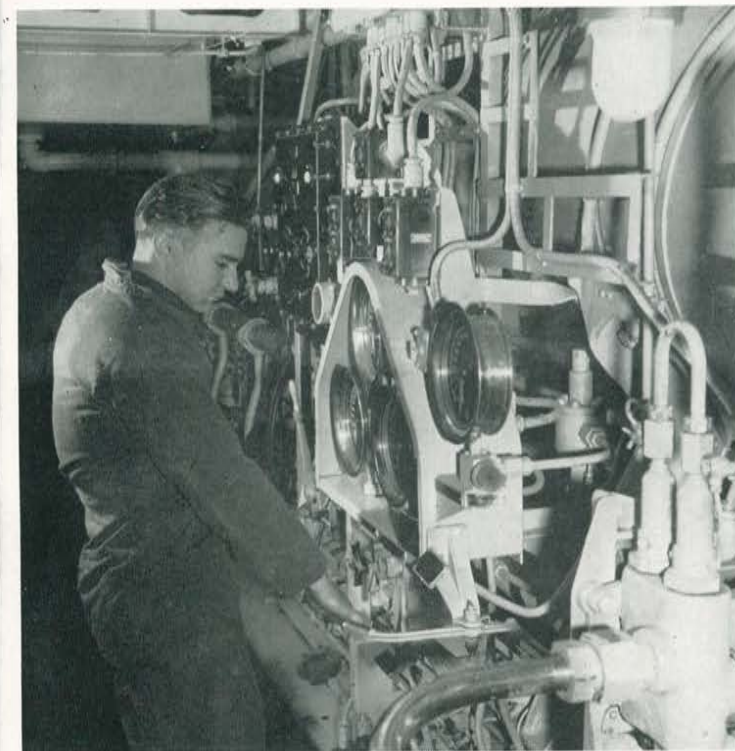
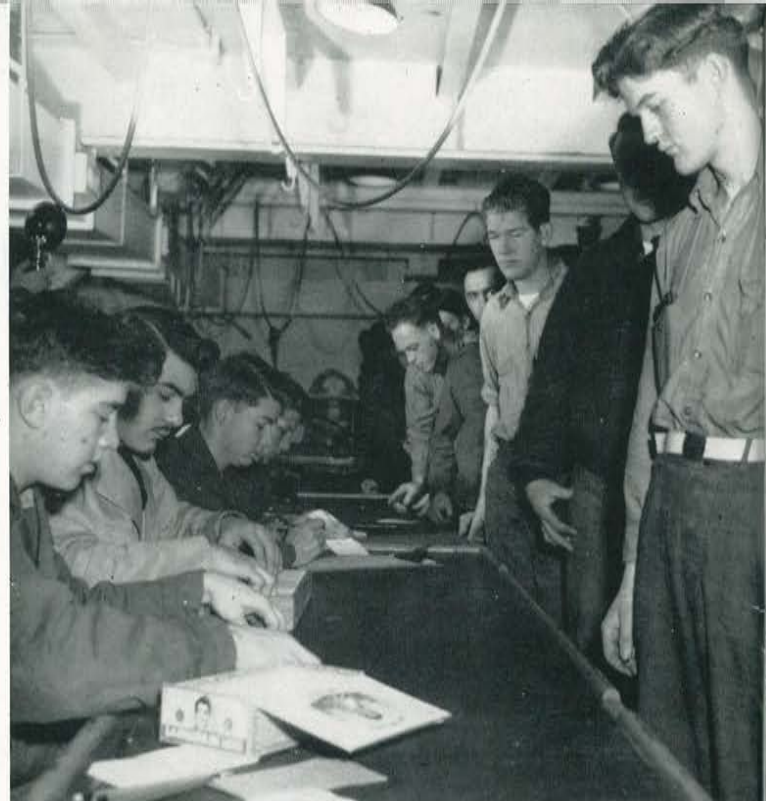
"AFTER HEAD"

PHOTO LAB



"THE GILDED SACK"

MOVIE BOOTH



SIGNING OVER
CATAPULT SHACK
AVIATION REPAIR

PAY LINE
POST OFFICE



LINE HANDLING
PAINT LOCKER

ANCHOR CHAIN
SAIL LOCKER



MACHINE SHOP
METAL SHOP
VALVES, AND MORE VALVES

ENGINE ROOM
THE BOYS THAT MAKE THE SHIP MOVE
CLEANING THE BOILERS



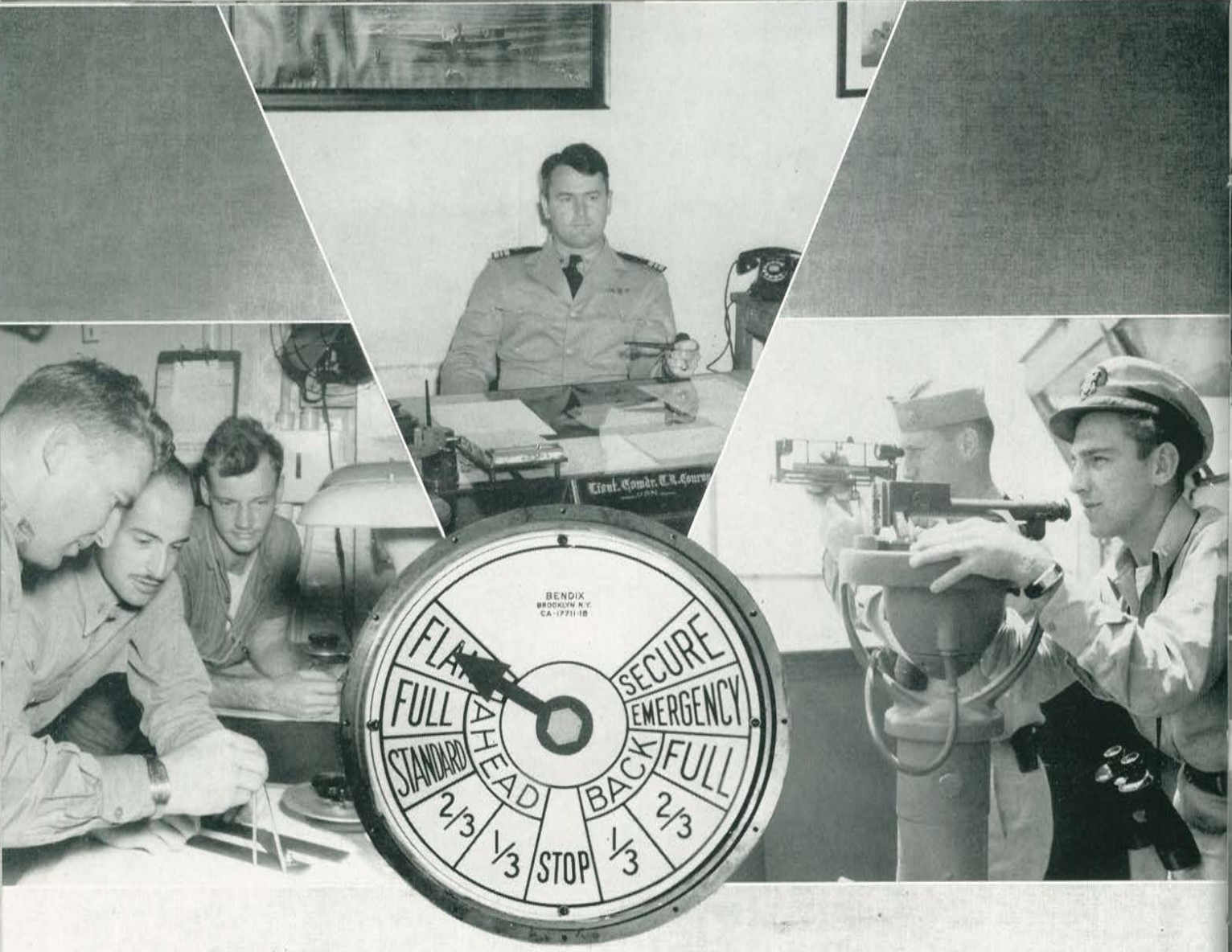
ON THE LOOKOUT

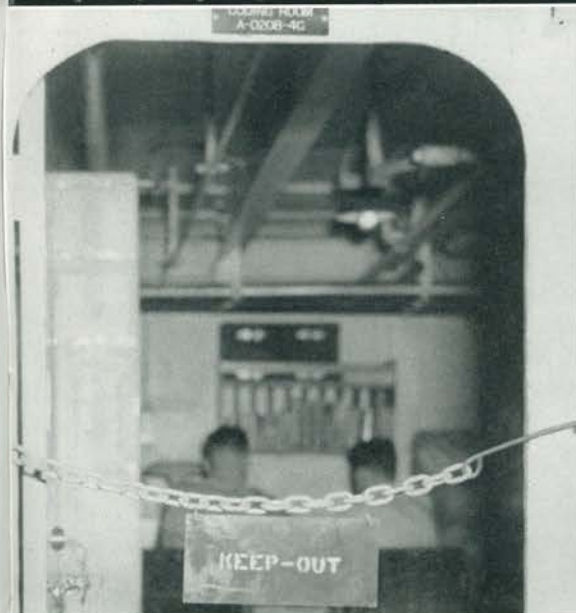
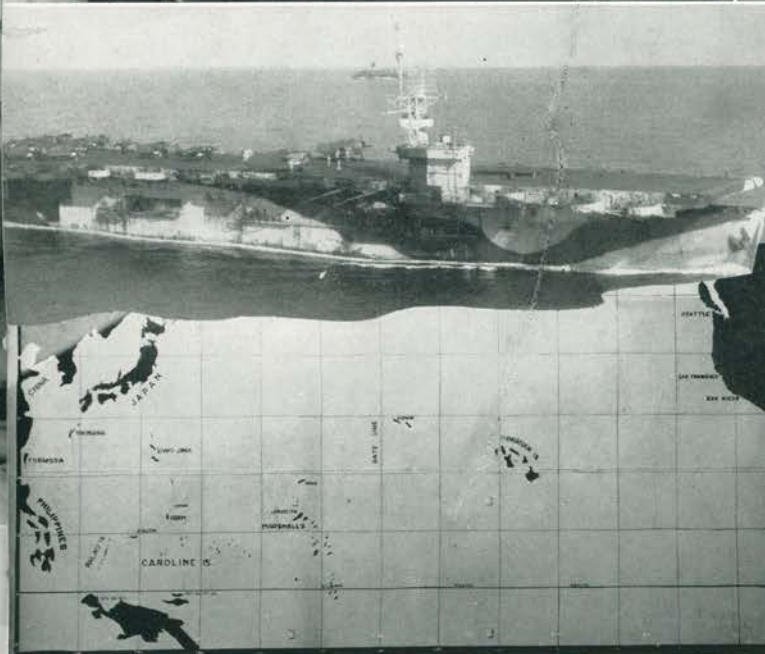


THE BUGLER BOY OF COMPANY M



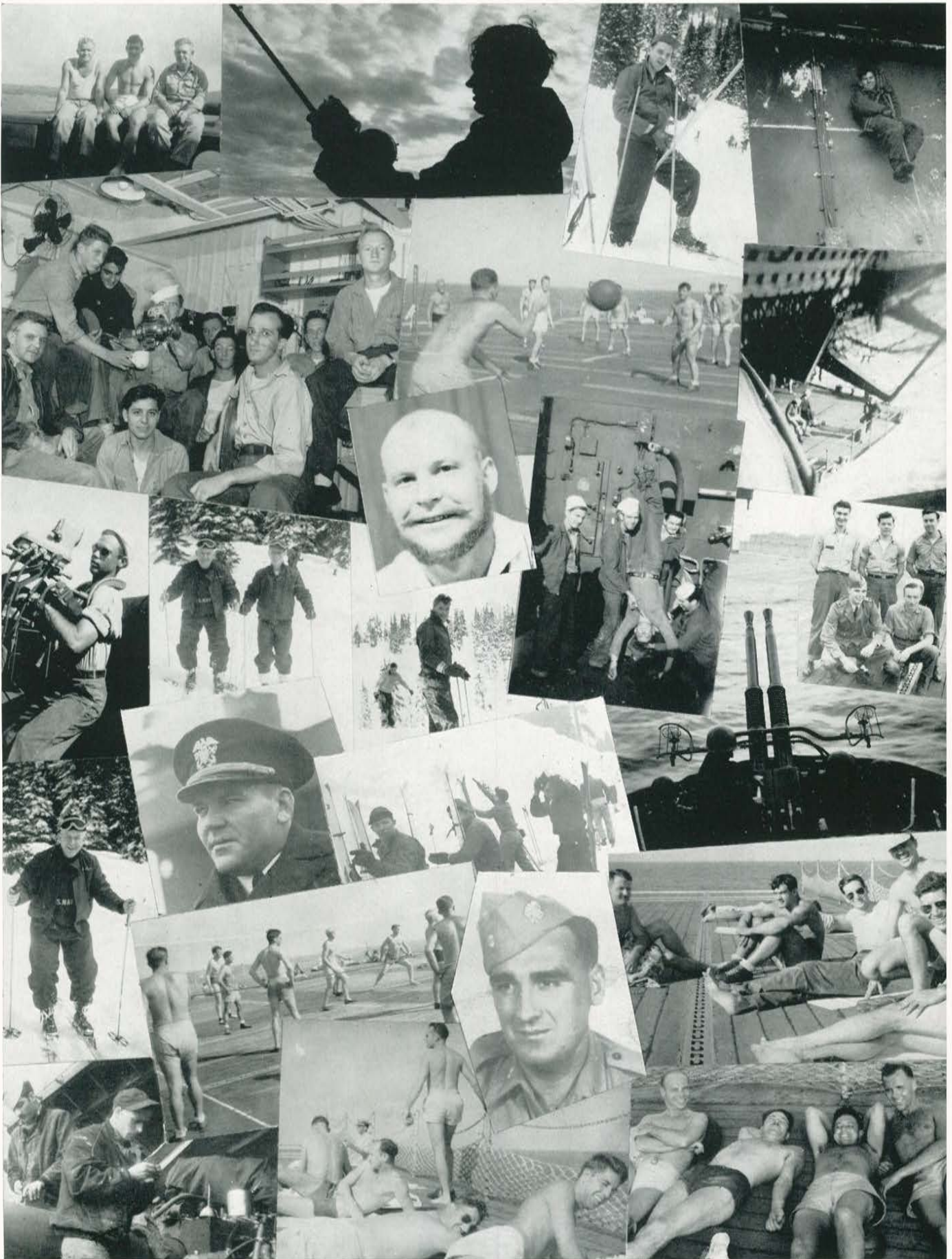
"NOW GET THIS"





SIGNAL WATCH
MIGHTY MAK
CODING ROOM

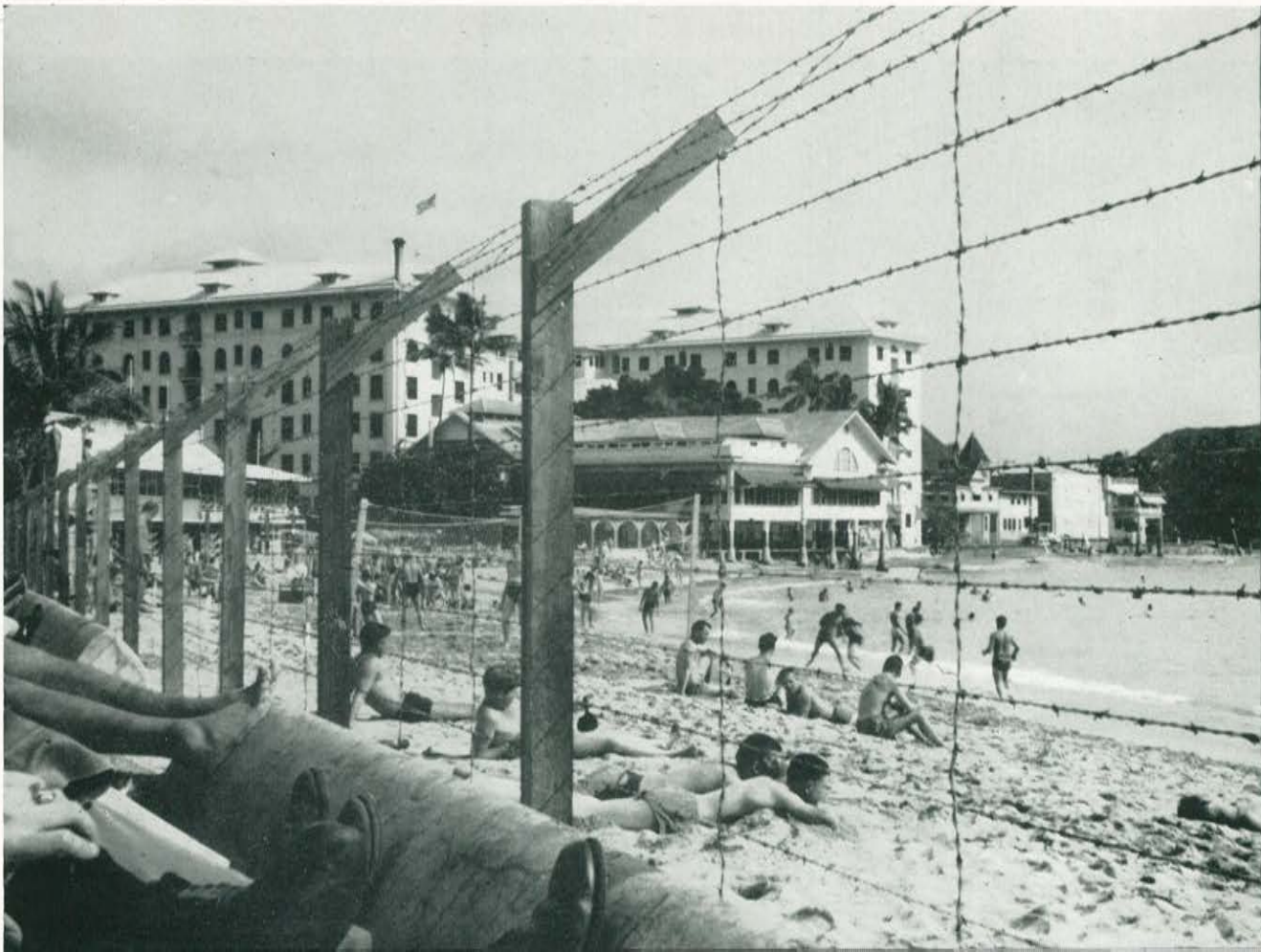
RADIO SHACK
CHARTHOUSE
COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER





MANUS

WAIKIKI





IWO JIMA STRIKES

ULITHI, ISLAND PARADISE





FLEET ANCHORAGE — ULITHI

Milestones

- Commissioning: April 27, 1944
- First departure on voyage with full ship's company aboard (Columbia River): May 19, 1944.
- First arrival continental port (Seattle): May 20, 1944.
- First flight operations (San Diego): June 1, 1944.
- First departure from continental U. S. (San Diego): June 6, 1944.
- First arrival in "outside" port (Hawaii): June 12, 1944.
- First arrival in port past P. H. (Majuro): June 25, 1944.
- First arrival on return home (San Diego): July 13, 1944.
- First yard period (San Diego): July 14-August 2, 1944.
- First training duty (San Diego): August 6-Sept. 22, 1944.
- First trip across Equator (P. H. to Manus, A. I.): October 14, 1944.
- First overseas Christmas (P. H.): December 25, 1944.
- First (and only) permanent squadron joins ship (P. H.): Jan. 28, 1945.
- First logistic operation (Iwo Jima): February 9-March 1, 1945.
- First bad storm (off Okinawa): April 2-3, 1945.
- First direct support operation (Okinawa): April 8, 1945.
- First (and only) "close call" (off Kerany Retto): April 16, 1945.
- First "Magic Carpet" run to Kwajalein: November 5, 1945.

A Word from the Editors

Literary Editor Lt. (jg) Arnold Schwab
Co-Editor Lt. (jg) Julian Handler
Co-Editor Chaplain John Fremont Merrill
Photographers Oglesby, LeRoy, CPhoM;
Voodre, Henry, PhoM1c; Stephanitis, Anthony, PhoM1c;
Kepner, George, PhoM2c; Mier, Otto, PhoM2c

It is with a feeling of humility that the editors view their efforts to present a story of the *Mighty Mak*. We are well aware of all the deficiencies: the pictures of men and places that are missing, the names which are lacking, the stories, incidents, and impressions which are not included. We are all too well aware of what this book might have been had the idea of having such a record of the ship and its men been conceived upon commissioning or even in pre-commissioning days, and nurtured in the years following. However, there were more important things to think about then; the war was a pressing reality, not a memory to be preserved. This book was an afterthought.

The editors therefore have had to confine themselves to the material which was available—incidentally or accidentally—the pictures which had been taken and were on file, and the records which were still aboard ship. Moreover, this work was undertaken at a time when trained photographic personnel and equipment were no longer plentiful, or, as inactivation progressed, even available; when everything was in a state of flux, and when the golden opportunities for getting dramatic and meaningful pictures no longer existed.

It was inevitable then that certain omissions should occur. All we can say is that they are unintentional. Working with the material we had, limited by substantial, technical, and financial considerations, we have tried to produce an impressionistic summary of the *Mighty Mak* and the days we spent aboard her. We have endeavored to catch the spirit of those never-to-be-forgotten times, the war years, and to transmit that, together with the more tangible evidence of our life aboard the *Mak*, to those of ship's company who want something to help them remember some of the events and impressions of the "biggest adventure of their lives."

We are not in any way ashamed of what we have turned out; indeed, we are proud of it. We only regret that it could not have been more complete. We have done our best under the circumstances. We hope you like it for what it does say and mean, and that you overlook, with understanding, what it of necessity does not include.

Let us all remember together.



U. S. Navy. Escort aircraft carriers
T-11



USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91 USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91 USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91

PLANK OWNER'S Certificate

TO ALL SAILORS AND AVIATORS, WHEREVER YE MAY BE - GREETINGS; KNOW YE BY THESE PRESENTS THAT

Lieutenant James H. HOUSER, U.S.N.R.

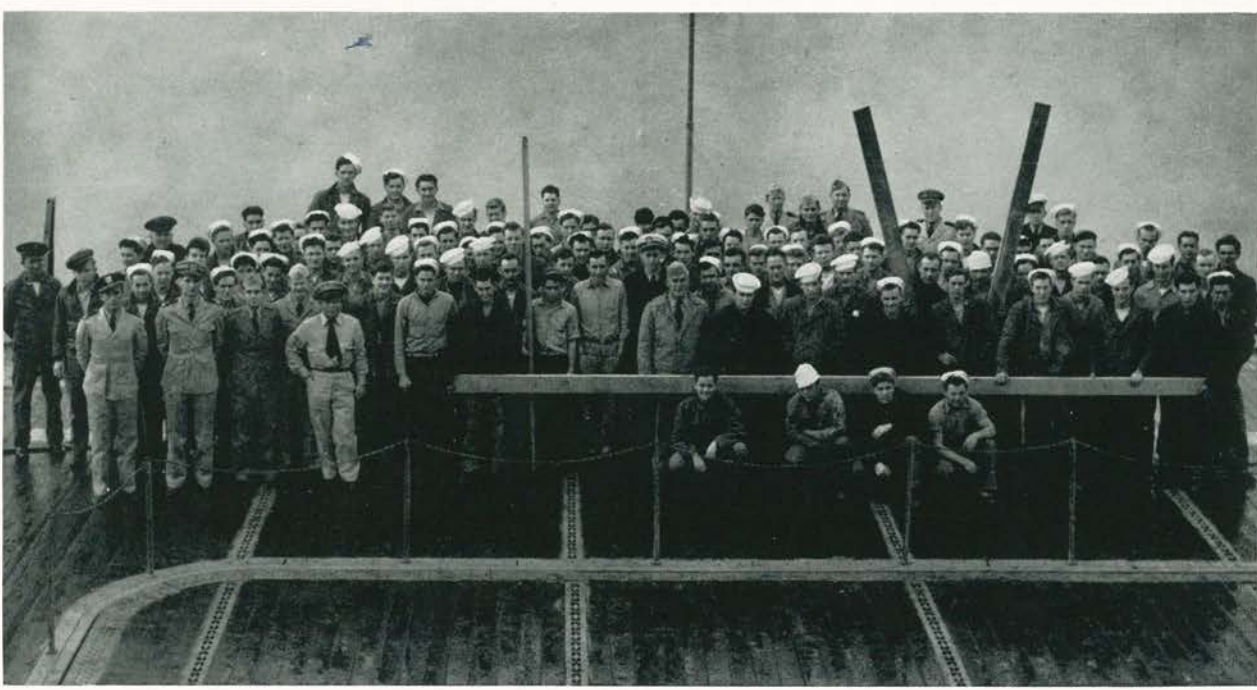
WAS A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL CREW WHICH COMMISSIONED THE USS MAKASSAR STRAIT AND IS THEREFORE ENTITLED TO ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF A PLANK OWNER ON SAID SHIP, INCLUDING A CLEAR AND UNENNUMBERED TITLE TO ONE PLANK IN THE FLIGHT DECK.

27 April 1944
DATE OF COMMISSIONING

J. H. Houser
CAPTAIN U.S. NAVY, COMMANDING

USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91 USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91 USS MAKASSAR STRAIT 91

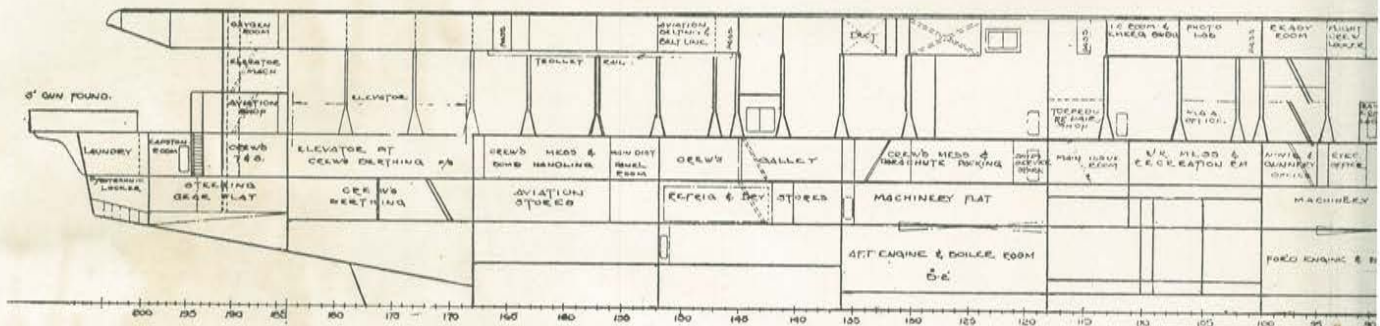
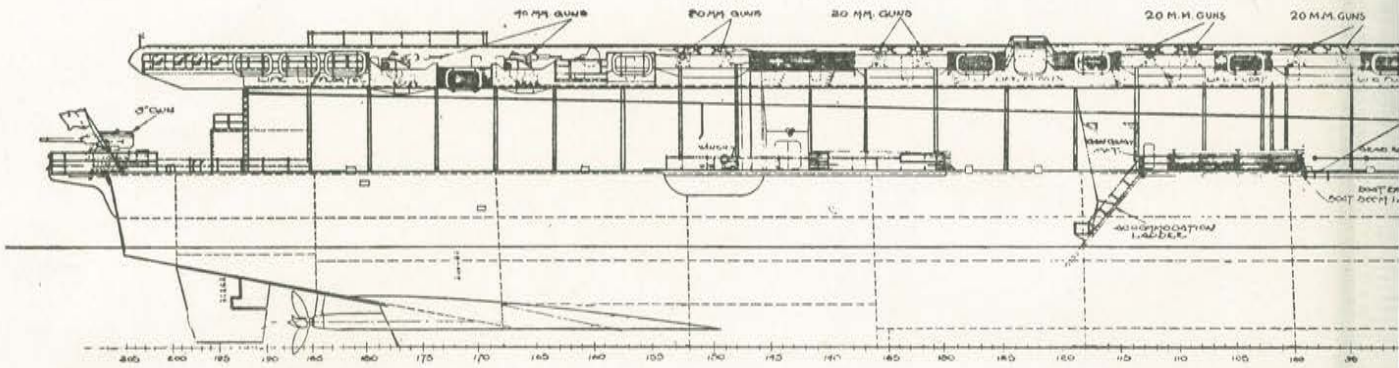
Plank Owners

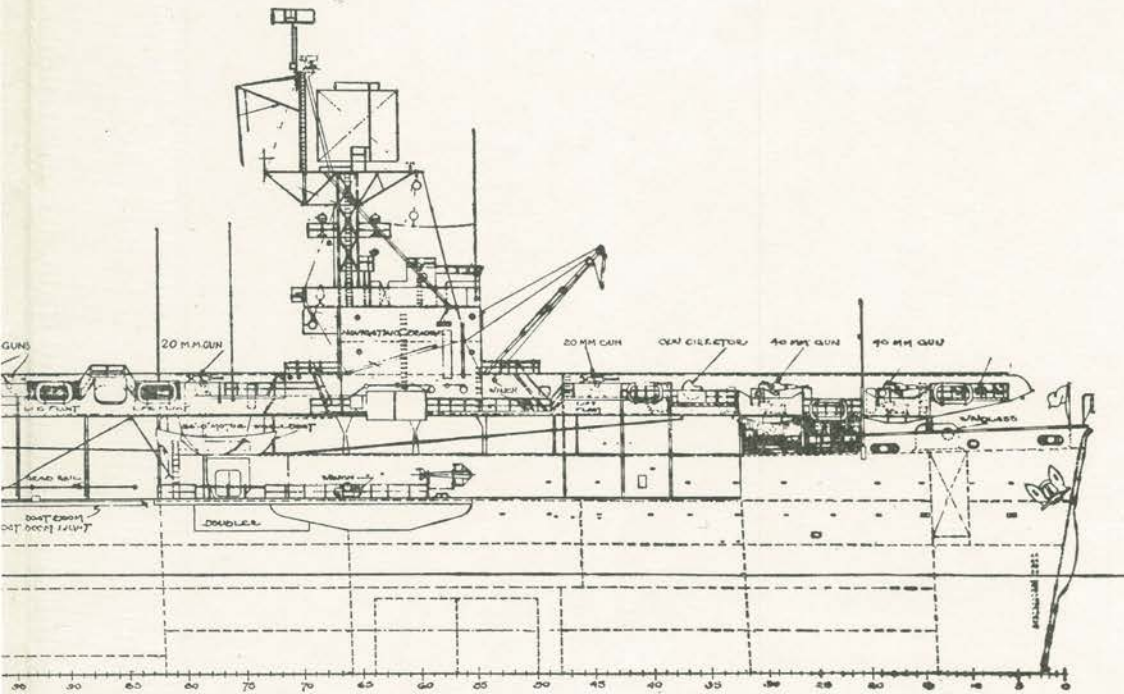




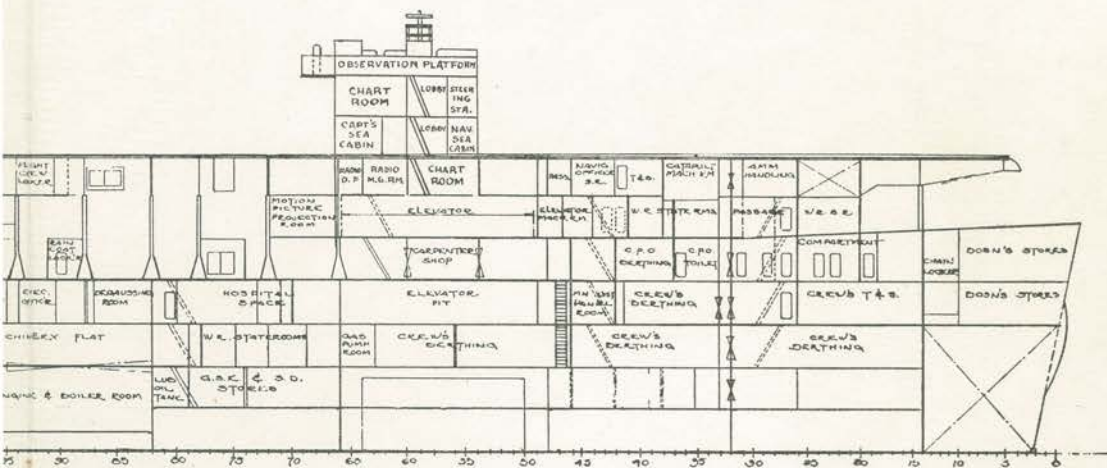
Farewell

And how does one say farewell to a ship?—
Not just a type of vessel, but a part
Of days that will no longer make the trip
Across the sea of time, save in the heart,
When all the trivialities will fade
Like sun behind a dock behind a hill,
Casting the patched-up spots into the shade,
Leaving the sunniest image shining still.
And so we leave you, ship of pride and sorrow,
Home of necessity—and here's the lease
We make with you on entering tomorrow:
Be ready for war, but may you rest in peace—
And though we may salute and say goodbye,
In memory the Mak will never die.





FLIGHT DECK
 GALLERY DECK
 UPPER DECK
 HANGER DECK
 SECOND DECK
 FIRST PLATFORM
 TANK TOP
 CVE91
 OUTBOARD PROFILE



FLIGHT DECK
 GALLERY DECK
 UPPER DECK
 HANGER DECK
 SECOND DECK
 FIRST PLATFORM
 TANK TOP
 CVE91
 INBOARD PROFILE

