



**USS CARD CVE 11**

# United States Ship

James T Peralta Jr

U.S.S. CARD (CVE-11)

Card (CVE-11) was launched as AVG-11 21 February 1942 by Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp., Tacoma, Wash., under a Maritime Commission contract; reclassified ACV-11, 20 August 1942; and commissioned 8 November 1942, Captain J.B. Sykes in command.

Departing San Diego 18 January 1943, Card arrived at Hampton Roads 1 February. She ferried aircraft and troops for the North African invasion from New York to Casablanca (14 May-1 June). She was reclassified CVE-11 on 15 July 1943. Card steamed from Norfolk as flagship of TG-21.14, one of the hunter-killer groups formed for offensive operations against German submarines. Her first cruise from 27 July to 10 September 1943 was very successful. Her planes sank U-117 on 7 August; U-644 on 9 August; and U-847 on 27 August. Her second cruise from 25 September to 9 November provided even more lucrative hunting. Planes from Card spotted a nest of four submarines refueling 4 October and sank two of them: U-460, and U-422. Nine days later U-402 fell victim to aircraft from Card. Her airplanes added another submarine to their score on 31 October when they sank U-584. The fifth and final kill of the cruise was made on 1 November by one of Card's escorts. After a violent, close-range surface action, Borie (DD-215) rammed and sank U-405. Too badly damaged to be saved, Borie had to be sunk by one of the other escorts. For her outstanding antisubmarine activities from 27 July to 25 October, Card and her task group were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Card began her third hunter-killer cruise 24 November heading for the North Atlantic. Late on 23 December the group ran into wolf pack; Card had 12 contacts in 5 hours. Schenck (DD-159) sank U-645, but one of the other escorts Leary (DD-158) was sunk by the combined efforts of three submarines. Card dodged submarines all night with only Decatur (DD-341) as screen, while Schenck rescued survivors from Leary. The task group returned to Norfolk 2 January 1944. From 18 March to 17 May Card operated on transport duty between Norfolk and Casablanca, then underwent overhaul until 4 June when she steamed for Quonset Point to hold pilot qualification exercises. She returned to Norfolk 21 June to serve as the nucleus of TG 22.10. The hunter-killer unit departed Norfolk 25 June and on 5 July two of her escorts Thomas (DE-102) and Baker (DE-190), sank U-233. Thirty survivors including the fatally wounded commanding officer of the submarine were taken on board. Card who put them ashore at Boston next day.

She sortied 18 September as flagship of TG 22.2 for patrol off the Azores during which she cooperated with British Escort Group 9 to attack a submarine 12 October. After another patrol with TG 22.2 (1 December 1944-22 January 1945), Card entered Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for overhaul until 7 February, then transported Army aircraft and Army and Navy personnel to Liverpool, returning to Norfolk 12 March. From 21 March to 24 May Card was based on Quonset Point. She ferried men and aircraft to Guantanamo Bay (21-24 June), then transited the Panama Canal to transport material to Pearl Harbor and Guam, returning to San Diego 14 August 1945. Assigned to "Magic Carpet" duty she made two voyages to Pearl Harbor and one to the western Pacific from 21 August to 13 December 1945.

Card departed Alameda 7 January 1946 for the east coast where she was placed out of commission in reserve at Norfolk 13 May 1946. In addition to her Presidential Unit Citation, Card received three battle stars for service World War II service.

Card was sold for scrap 12 September 1970.