



**USS CROATAN CVE-25**



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U S NAVY PHOTO 1124

**USS CROATAN**  
**( CVE - 25 )**

**First Hull Number : AVG.14**

**Builder : Western Pipe ( San Francisco ) G.E.**

**Launched : 4 - 5 - 42**

**Fate : R.N. FENCER 1943; mercantile Sydney**

**CLASS : BOUGE**

**Second Hull Number : AVG. 25**

**Builder : Seattle - Tacoma Allis Chalmers**

**Launched : 3 - 8 - 42**

**Fate : AKV - 43 1959.**

**Displacement : 11,000 tons ( 15,400 tons full ).**

**Dimensions : 465 (wl) 495 3/4 (oa) x 69 1/2 (111 1/2 across F.D.)  
x 23 1/4 /26 feet.**

**Machinery : Two Foster - Wheeler boilers, one shaft; Allis -  
Chalmers geared turbines, S.H.P. 8,500 = 18 knots;  
O.F. 2,423 tons.**

**Armament : Two 5 inch/38 A.A. (2x1), eight 40mm. A.A. (4x2),  
twelve 20mm A.A. (12 x1) guns.  
Two Catapults and twenty - eight aircraft.**

**Complement : 890 Enlisted men and Officers.**

***Service History : July 1943 = Atlantic***

***August 1943 = Anti - Submarine escort of convoys.***

***October 1943 = Two aircraft transport missions to  
North Africa.***

***from January 1944 = Anti - Submarine warfare; several  
operations.***

***Sept. To Nov. 1945 = Pilot qualifications, East Coast.***

***November 1945 = "Magic Carpet" between East Coast  
and France.***

***20 May 1946 = Withdrawn from service; Reserve  
Fleet.***

***16 June 1958 = Reactivated for M.S.T.S. as TCVHE - 25***

***1 July 1958 = Reclassified T - CVU - 25***

***27 Oct. 1964 = Transferred to NASA with civilian crew.  
Served for a time as a sea going launch***

*platform for experiments in the South Pacific. Rocket Launchers were fixed at the stern and around the after elevator and tracking antennas were installed. This was all removed by May 1965.*

*from 20 May 1965 = Renewed normal aircraft ferry service for the M.S.T.S. Starboard stack as USS CARD ( CVE - 11 ).*

*1970 = Withdrawn from Service; stricken*

The CROATAN spent all her WW II Sea time in the Atlantic