

USS KALININ BAY CVE-68



BATTLE CONGRATULATIONS

Messages of Congratulations received by the KALININ BAY for the part she played in the battle of October 25, 1944. The Messages follow:

The Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet desires to express to all officers and men of the Fleet his pride and gratitude for the courageous and aggressive manner in which they have done their utmost to destroy the enemy in the recent fighting in the Pacific. To those who have fought in the air, on the surface, and in our submarines " WELL DONE ". To those brave men who have gallantly given their lives to achieve Victory for our Country, our reverent and lasting respect. Their fine example will inspire us all in completion of our task of destroying the enemies of the United States. - NIMITZ

From COMTASKUNIT 77.4.3 to Admiral Ofstie CMA officers and men of this unit. I wish to express my sincere admiration and congratulations to all hands for their splendid manner in which all hands performed under overwhelming odds. Never in history has a Naval unit been subjected to such a continuous bombardment and achieved the results we achieved.

This small unit together with planes from TAFFY ONE and TWO turned back the major part of the Japanese Fleet. You will be glad to know that 800 survivors of the MIDWAY (ST LO) have been rescued and I have reason to believe that many from the GAMBIER and escorts are being saved. The score isn't in, yet it looks like the yellow Navy has been pared down to this unit's size. Again my thanks and best wishes for continued successes.

From COMNAVFOR EUROPE TO CINPAC FACFLT. Heartiest congratulations to all hands over there from all hands over here on your great Victories.

From COMCRUDIV 12 to KALININ BAY, Admiration and Congratulations.

From COMMANDER NAVAL BASE, MANUS to KALININ BAY. Welcome to Manus after your Heroic action against the Japanese Fleet October 25. I express admiration of the entire Base for your wonderful fighting ability and spirit.

From CINPAC to KALININ BAY, SANGAMON, SUWANEE, CHANANGO, SANTEE, WHITE PLAINS, FANSHAW BAY, KITKUN BAY. Info COMCARDIV 26, COMAIRPAC COMINCH. Welcome to Pearl. Your successful fight against great odds will live as one of those stirring tales of Naval History. The people of our Country and those of us in the Naval Service are grateful and proud of your outstanding performance of duty against the best the enemy could offer. As long as our Country has men with your heart, courage, skill and strength she need not fear for her future. To each and every one a WELL DONE - NIMITZ



(Official USN Photo) USS KALININ BAY CVE68

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMANDING OFFICER

Captain T. B. Williamson was born on January 9, 1901 and his parents named him "Binney". He lived a happy and full childhood in his "Home-Town" of Edwardsville, Illinois. In 1918 the realization of his ambition to become a Navy career man started when he attended prep school for entrance into the Naval Academy. He entered the Naval Academy in 1919 and was graduated in 1923.

His career took him to many parts of the world, many ships and many commands. Fortunately for the USS Kallin Bay he was of course our "Skipper" during the "Battle of Lyte Gulf" and guided us through this battle. We were fortunate to have his leadership at this time.

Captain Williamson, now deceased, is well remembered for his "Sense of Humor". This portrayed in quotation in reference to his fourth place in the Thompson Trophy Race in 1929 where he came in fourth in a race of five planes. "Not bad except that there were only 5 planes entered and one of them caught fire and didn't finish", stated the Captain. He was married to Miss Alys Danford on March 6, 1929 and they were blessed with two sons. The boys were brought up in Coronado, California where they attended the Coronado Schools.

*--- A ship's "Picture Book" was dedicated to our
beloved Commanding Officer ---*

The Officers and men of the USS Kallin Bay CVE - 68
and Composite Squadron Three VC - 3

USS

KALININ
CVE-68

BAY



PRESIDENTIAL
UNIT
CITATION²³

PALAU

SAIPAN-GUAM

SAMAR-LEYTE GULF

PHILIPPINE
LIBERATION
PRESIDENTIAL
CITATION²³

TARAWA-MAURO

ENIWETOK-KWAJALEIN



AIR GROUP
VC-3

TAFFY 3