

USS LUNGA POINT CVE-94



# United States Ship

U.S.S LUNGA POINT (CVE-94)

Lunga Point (CVE-94), originally Alazon Bay, was laid down by Kaiser Shipbuilding Co., Vancouver, Washington, 19 January 1944; launched 11 April 1944; and commissioned 14 May 1944, Capt. G.A.T. Washburn in command.

After brief training during the early summer of 1944, Lunga Point sailed for the Pacific to deliver army bombers to New Guinea and bring war-worn P-47s back home. Upon return she became a unit of CarDiv 29 and departed San Diego 16 October 1944 to participate in the Leyte Gulf operations, touching Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, and Kossol Roads en route. From 13 to 22 November she provided air cover for transports and surface units engaged in the campaign. Relieved the 23d, she sailed to Manus, Admiralty Islands, to prepare for the Luzon campaign.

The escort carrier sailed 27 December from Manus to supply air support for 6th Army landing operations at Lingayen Gulf. On 4 January 1945 she splashed one enemy aircraft and witnessed the sinking of Ormaney Bay which had been hit by Japanese planes. Fighting her way through 14 enemy attacks, she arrived off Lingayen Gulf 6 January and commenced 11 days of intensive air support during which time her aircraft flew an average of 41 sorties a day. On 17 January the support carriers were withdrawn and returned to Ulithi. From 23 January to 10 February Lunga Point prepared for the invasion of Iwo Jima, and stood off the beaches with the advanced amphibious forces 16 February. Enemy airstrikes developed in strength by 21 February when some 16 planes attacked carriers in the vicinity. Saratoga was damaged and Bismarck Sea was sunk, but Lunga Point splashed three "Jills" while suffering only minor damage. By 8 March land-based planes were present in sufficient strength to allow the ship to return to Ulithi to get ready for the Okinawa campaign. The ship reprovisioned and on 21 March sortied from Ulithi with other advanced forces of Rear Admiral C.A.F. Sprague's Task Unit. From 24 March to 27 June Lunga Point remained in support of the operation providing air cover, pounding enemy ground targets in the Ryukyu Islands and fighting off constant suicide attacks. She completed this duty without mishap and returned to Leyte 27 June. This was followed by a minesweeping operation west of Okinawa in early July, and an antishipping sweep along the China coast from Shanghai northward in August. This duty terminated the 7th, and she sailed to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, where she received news of the Japanese peace offerings.

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## LUNGA POINT

Lunga Point, a promontory on the northern coast of Guadalcanal; the site of a World War II battle.

(CVE-94: dp. 7,800; l. 512'3"; b. 65'2"; ew. 108'1"; dr. 22' 6"; s. 19 k; cpl. 860; a. 1 5", 16 40mm., ac. 27; cl. Casablanca)

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LUNGA POINT received the Navy Occupation Service Medal for duty from 3 September to 29 October 1945 in Asiatic waters. The ship also received 5 Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal for the following operations:

- 1 Star/Leyte Landings - 14 November - 23 November 1944
- 1 Star/Lingayen Gulf Landing - 4 January - 18 January 1945
- 1 Star/Assault and Occupation of Iwo Jima - 16 February - 8 March 1945
- 1 Star/FIFTH Fleet raids in Support of Okinawa Gunto Operation 26 April - 6 June 1945
- 1 Star/THIRD Fleet Operations Against Japan - 10 July - 7 August 1945

#### STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMBAT ACTION

4477	Sorties by squadron planes
6,000+	Bombs and rockets
400,000+	Rounds machine gun ammo
5	Enemy planes by ship's guns
11	Enemy aircraft by Wildcats and Avengers
3	Enemy planes on the ground
1	Destroyer
23	Barges and small craft sunk
71	Buildings destroyed: 43 damaged
53	Trucks destroyed: 38 damaged
22	Gun emplacements destroyed: 21 damaged
7	Ammunition dumps blown up
5	Fuel dumps blown up
6	Tanks destroyed
8	Supply dumps destroyed
2	Bridges destroyed

Plus much unassessable damage to an undetermined number of camouflaged enemy troop and gun positions.

Lost in combat: 6 planes, 2 pilots, 3 crewmen

Lost to operations: 9 planes (No personnel losses), 1 crewman



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the  
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

UNITED STATES SHIP LUNGA POINT CVE-94

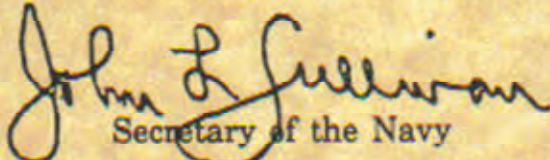
and her attached Air Squadrons participating in the following operations:

- VC-85, Leyte Operation, November 14 to 23, 1944;
- VC-85, Luzon Operation, January 4 to 18, 1945;
- VC-85, Iwo Jima Operation, February 16 to March 8, 1945;
- VC-85, Okinawa Gunto Operation, March 25, April 26, 1945;
- VC-98, Okinawa Gunto Operation, May 19 to June 6, 1945;
- VC-98, THIRD Fleet Operations against Japan, July 10 to 15, 1945,

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat. Operating in the most advanced areas, the U.S.S. LUNGA POINT and her attached air squadrons penetrated enemy-controlled waters to destroy hostile warships, aircraft, merchant shipping and shore installations despite frequent and sustained enemy air attacks. Fighting her guns effectively, she defended herself against repeated Kamikaze attacks, destroying five suicide planes by her own gunfire and assisting the screen in the destruction of two others. Her air groups furnished powerful fire support for our landing operations and land offensives and they provided aerial photographic coverage of enemy installations, beaches and waterways. Operating as a highly disciplined and superbly coordinated team, the LUNGA POINT, her officers and her men achieved a notable record of excellent performance in combat which reflects the highest credit upon the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

  
Secretary of the Navy