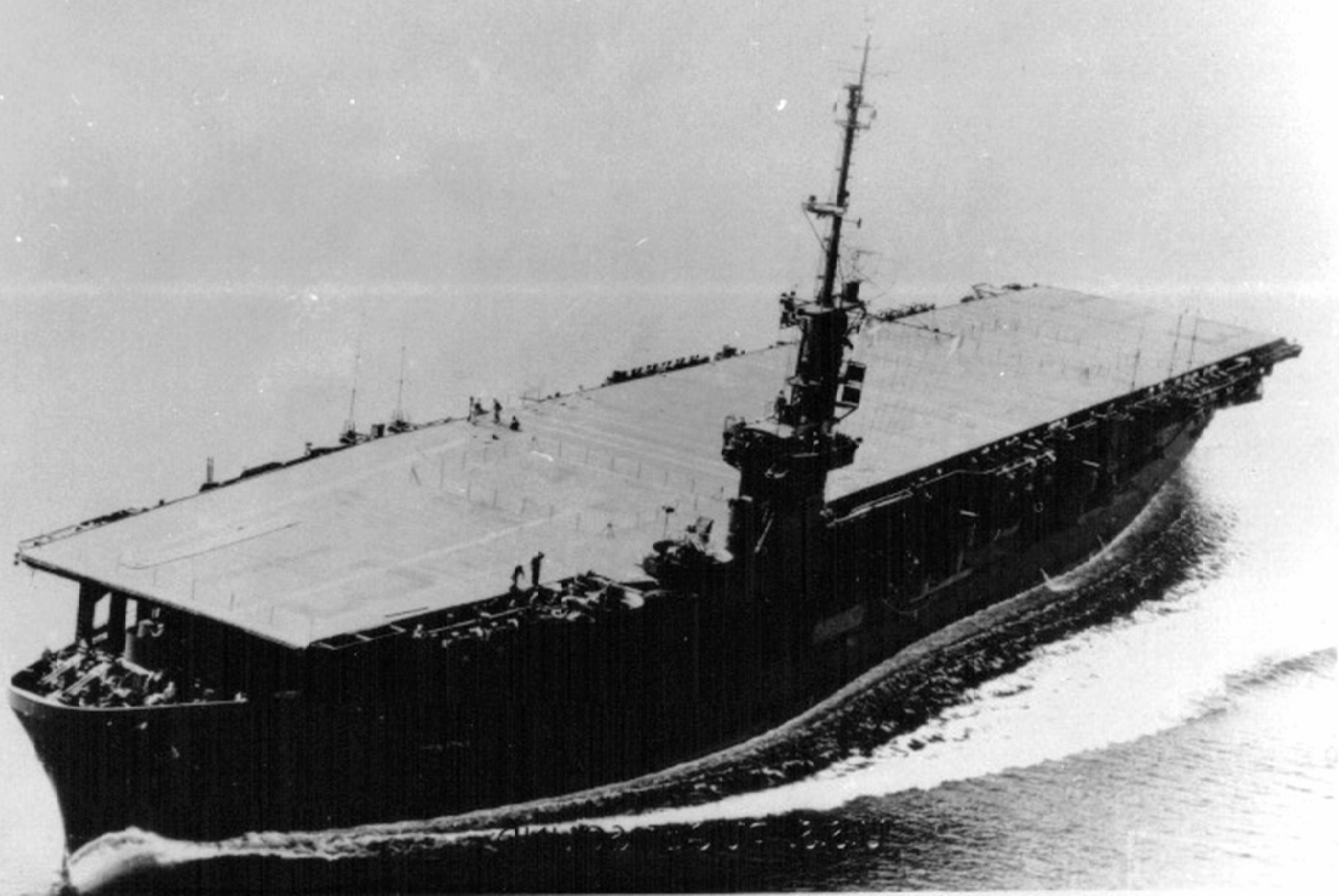


USS PUGET SOUND CVE-113



PLANK OWNER'S CERTIFICATE

To all sailors and aviators, wherever ye may be...
greetings; know ye by these presents that

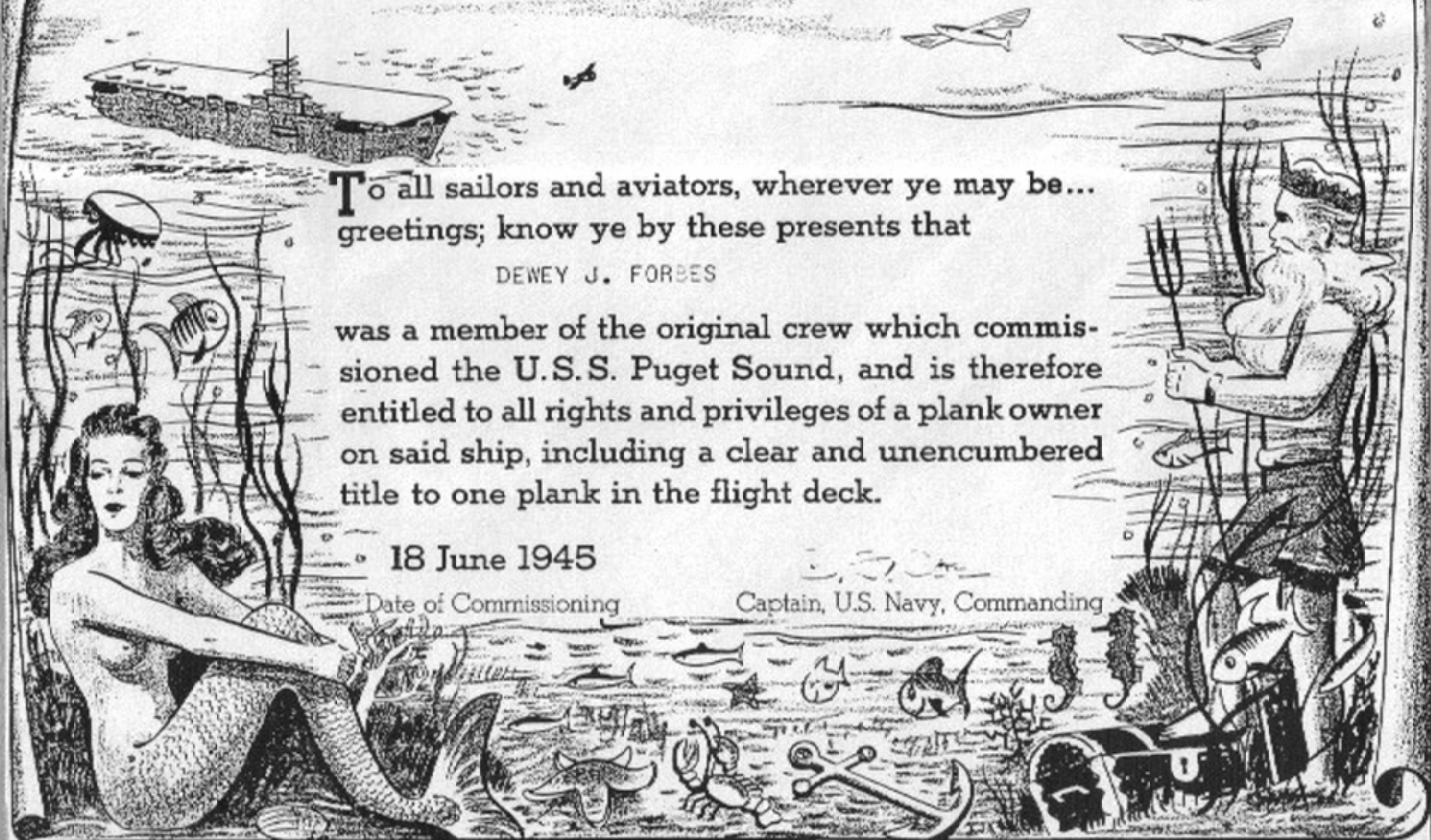
DEWEY J. FORBES

was a member of the original crew which commissioned the U.S.S. Puget Sound, and is therefore entitled to all rights and privileges of a plank owner on said ship, including a clear and unencumbered title to one plank in the flight deck.

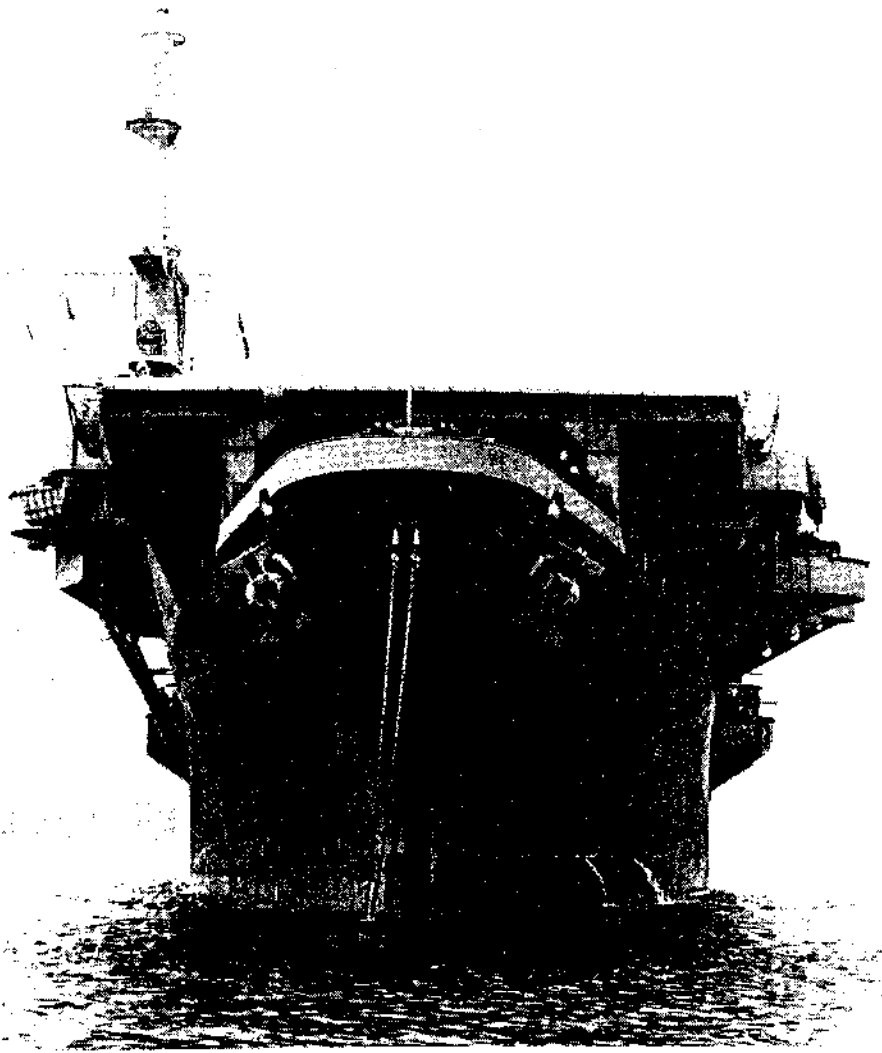
18 June 1945

Date of Commissioning

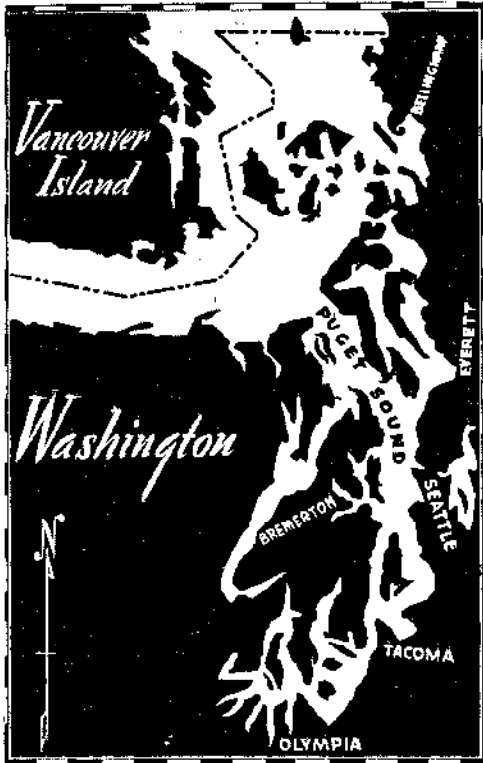
Captain, U.S. Navy, Commanding



Our Ship



OUR SHIP is an Escort Carrier of the latest class. It has a large hangar deck for stowing and repairing airplanes, and a flight deck a good bit larger than a football field for planes to take off and land. Our ship has one of the largest all welded hulls ever built, with all the latest improvements and refinements in design to make it a safe and efficient fighting ship. When its complete crew and air squadron are aboard, it will have a complement of over a thousand men. In addition to its skillfully designed and highly technical equipment for doing battle, it also possesses such homey conveniences as a barber shop, cobbler shop, soda fountain, bakery, movies, library and other facilities necessary for the health and comfort of the crew.



Our Name

IN THE extreme northwest corner of the United States there is an extensive inland waterway so great that its discoverers called it the "Mediterranean of the Pacific." With its swift narrows and shimmering bays, fringed by forests of giant evergreens, stretching skyward straight and very tall from rolling hills,—and the thrilling vista of snow-capped Mt. Rainier in the Cascades and the Olympics,—it is undeniably one of the most picturesque of Nature's beauty spots.

Captain George Vancouver and his crew of British seamen were the first white men to discover its beauty to the world. Some one hundred and fifty years ago, they braved the Straits of Juan de Fuca and found themselves encompassed by a massive network of waterways. Some of these winding passages, Vancouver explored himself; others he entrusted to the skillful navigation of his Chief Lieutenant, Peter Puget. By their joint efforts, they completely explored every turning of the extensive inlet, and to commemorate Mr. Puget's exertions, the south extremity of it was named "Puget's Sound."

In the years which have followed, Puget Sound has developed into an economically and culturally important area of our great land. With the large cities of Seattle on the north, and Tacoma on the south, Bellingham, Everett, Olympia, and Bremerton with its Navy Yard, the shores of Puget Sound house and give employment to millions of industrious and loyal Americans. It is in honor of this great area, that our ship bears the proud name, "USS PUGET SOUND."

Typical of this section's patriotism are the facts that our ship was built by the combined industry and ingenuity of the Todd Pacific Shipyard workers of Tacoma, and purchased through the sale of war bonds by the people of Seattle and surrounding King County, under the supervision of the Women's Division of King County's War Finance Committee.

We Salute

Our

Crew



WHAT IS A SAILOR?

"A SAILOR is a guy who is worked too hard, gets too little sleep, takes verbal abuse no civilian would take, does every imaginable kind of job at any imaginable hour, never seems to get paid, never knows where he's going, can seldom tell where he's been--yet accepts the worst with complete resignation, and last but not least, he really kinda likes it! You know why?—When you're dog tired, been up since 4 A.M. working like hell all day, and about to hit your sack at 8 P.M., a voice shouts 'turn to on a work detail!' Then you unload a ship's cargo of perishable refrigerated foods.—You are ready to die by 2 A.M., but the job must be finished before dawn.—Soon you don't care if you live or die, and suddenly, you're a sailor, it's over, and you did it and you think of all the people you know and how they would react under the circumstances and you begin to grin. You grin because you ain't scared of nothing, and it is a fact that there is no ordeal you can't face--and you know it!"

—from a sailor's letter.

(From BuPers Information Bulletin)

Commanding Officer

CAPTAIN

C. F. COE, U.S.N.

Captain Charles Frederick Coe was born April 6, 1901, in Springfield, Ill. He was graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1923, and has been on active duty since that date. After serving on the Battleship Florida, and the Destroyer Litchfield, Captain Coe was sent to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola to undergo flight instruction. In 1929, after serving on the USS Maryland and the aircraft carrier Saratoga, Captain Coe returned to Pensacola as a flight instructor. In 1932 Captain Coe was in Fighting Squadron 6 on the USS Saratoga, from which post he was called

to the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington. From 1936 until 1938, Captain Coe served on the staff of Admiral King, who was then Com Air Scofor and later Com Air Battor. He was relieved of that duty in 1938 and made executive officer of Patrol Squadron 11. After a year in that duty, and another year spent at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Captain Coe was attached to the Staff of Comdr. Patrol Wing 2, under Admiral Bellinger. This duty took him to Pearl Harbor, where he was living with his family, when the Japs made their infamous attack. His home was a scant two hundred yards from the USS Arizona, which the Japs sent to the bottom. In 1942, Captain Coe was transferred to Vice Admiral Fitch's staff in the South Pacific, and in 1943 served as Chief of Staff, Com Air Solomons, under Major General N. F. Twining, A. C., U. S. Army.

In December of 1943, Captain Coe returned to the United States as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tenn. It was from this command that Captain Coe was called early this year to be Captain of our ship, the USS Puget Sound.

While serving as Flight Instructor at Pensacola in 1931, Captain Coe married the former Miss Charlotte Sells of Johnson City, Tennessee. Captain and Mrs. Coe, with their two children, Charlotte Wyman Coe and Charles Hayward Coe, have their home presently in Coronada, California.

Captain Coe was awarded the Legion of Merit for his duty under Com Air So Pac and an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Legion of Merit and an Air Medal for his duty in the Solomons. Captain Coe's ribbons include the American Defense Service Ribbon with Fleet Clasp, and the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Ribbon, on which are four bronze stars, acquired successively during the Pearl Harbor attack, the Guadalcanal campaign, the New Georgia occupation and the Bougainville occupation.



Captain's Message . . .

OUR ship, the USS Puget Sound, is the result of the blending of many skills. Hundreds of separate crafts were employed, and a torrent of mechanical abilities were poured out unstintingly to make our ship the fine fighting lady we commissioned today. As in the building, so also in the fighting of our ship, we, to whom this ship has been entrusted, must bring our individual skills, and our varied battle and technical experiences, into a mighty teamwork capable of getting the best out of the fighting ship at our disposal. This, then, is the challenge, and let it be our pledge, that we who give life to this ship, will bring to bear the same degree of excellence and spirit in fighting it, that the men and women of Todd Pacific displayed in building it.



Commissioning Prayer

DEIGN, O Lord, to hear our supplications and bless this ship and all who sail in it. Extend to us Thy right hand as Thou didst to Peter walking upon the water, that we may be preserved from the perils of wind and storm and from the violence of the enemy. Give us the strength we need to fight injustice in every form, so that as decent men, we may live decently in a decent world.

May Mary, the Immaculate Mother of Christ, give us the benefit of her maternal solicitude, that at every instant and in every place we may feel the security of Divine protection. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who, together with the Father and Holy Ghost, lives forever. Amen.



Executive Officer

COMMANDER

REGINALD R. McCracken, U.S.N.

Commander Reginald R. McCracken was born in Albia, Iowa, 20 July, 1908. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1931. His first duty was aboard the USS Tennessee. After a short tour of duty on the destroyer Perry, Commander McCracken was sent to Pensacola for flight training. He gained his "Wings" in August of 1934, and served as a naval aviator on the aircraft carriers Saratoga, Lexington and Ranger. In January of 1936, he was sent to Honolulu to Patrol Squadron 10, where he served for twenty months before being assigned to Patrol Squadron 4. Being returned to the United States, the Commander's next duty was in Seattle with Patrol Squadron 41. In August of 1940, he was appointed to the staff of Com Fair Wing 4, in which duty he continued until November of 1943. During the bitter Aleutian campaign, Commander McCracken served as Chief of Staff, and emerged from that duty with the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, and a bronze star.

In 1932, Commander McCracken married Miss Alma C. Robinson of Seattle, in which city, together with their son, Richard Lee, they now make their home.

U. S. S. Puget Sound

Roster of Officers

★ ★ ★

CAPTAIN C. F. COE, U.S.N.

Commanding Officer

COMMANDER R. R. McCracken, U.S.N.

Executive Officer

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Commander M. F. White (MC) | Lieutenant A. P. Miller (MC) | Ensign H. A. Hart |
| Lt. Comdr. A. London | Captain R. Bromley USMCR | Ensign M. F. Roesti |
| Lt. Comdr. A. M. Roberts | Captain J. Curran USMCR | Ensign B. C. Handley |
| Lt. Comdr. F. A. Bartlett | Captain J. K. Moeur, USMCR | Ensign A. M. Quilty |
| Major B. S. Platte USMCR | Captain J. C. Turner, USMCR | Ensign J. B. Right |
| Lieutenant K. E. Place | Lieut. (jg) R.J. Munroe | Ensign P. A. Reavis |
| Lieutenant I. L. Driggs | Lieut. (jg) L. Crowl | Ensign R. H. Adams, Jr. |
| Lieutenant F. P. Dewey | Lieut. (jg) C. B. Brovarney | Ensign F. H. Doucette |
| Lieutenant L. J. Shinar | Lieut. (jg) G. O. Billehus | Ensign R. G. Hibbett, Jr. |
| Lieutenant R. E. Cady | Lieut. (jg) W. S. Atwater | Ensign P. B. Bronken |
| Lieutenant J. E. Moore | Lieut. (jg) M. J. Ryan | Ensign I. H. Bennion (SC) |
| Lieutenant J. D. McPheron | Lieut. (jg) W. O. Davidson | Ch. Mach. W. F. Nussbart |
| Lieutenant J. H. Wendell | Lieut. (jg) P. R. Knupp | Machinist F. W. VanArsdale |
| Lieutenant O. J. Brown | Lieut. (jg) W. P. Fidler | Machinist J. R. Akins |
| Lieutenant G. M. Benson | Lieut. (jg) R.W. Moon (SC) | Machinist C. W. Anderson |
| Lieutenant I. J. Blackmer | Lieut. (jg) D. L. Chiddister (SC) | Bos'n R. M. Hanson |
| Lieutenant A. H. Abernathy, Jr. | Lieut. (jg) N. Gritton | Electrician W. L. Feight |
| Lieutenant C. L. Soule | Lieut. (jg) J. B. Neely | Gunner J. E. Kafoury |
| Lieutenant F. T. LaPointe | 1st Lt. B. C. Kent, USMCR | Sh. Clk. A. F. Stevensen |
| Lieutenant C. E. King (DC) | 1st Lt. W. H. Smith, USMCR | Rad. Elec. H. R. Torrence |
| Lieutenant D. J. Kramm (SC) | 1st Lt. H. J. Schachern, USMCR | Carpenter T. Dorenkamp |
| Lieutenant J. B. O'Malley (ChC) | 1st Lt. A. W. Taylor USMCR | Pharmacist R. M. Oswald |
| Lieutenant R. M. Wolfe | Ensign A. I. Dahl | Pay Clk. E. W. Yates (SC) |
| | Ensign C. C. McLean | |



U. S. S. P.

... COMMISSIONING

Assembly of the Crew

Flag Officer and Supervisor of Shipbuilding received at gangway
and escorted to Commissioning Parade

Blessing of the Ship by Chaplain J. B. O'Malley, U.S.N.R.

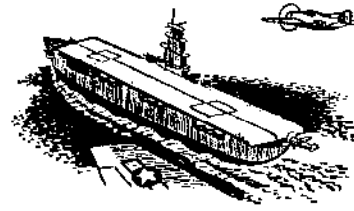
Playing of the Navy Hymn

Delivery of the Ship to U. S. Navy by Mr. G. F. Kachlein, Jr.,
Assistant General Manager of Todd Pacific Shipyards Inc.

Acceptance of Ship for the U. S. Navy by Captain J. L. McGuigan,
U.S.N.

Commissioning Orders and Remarks by Captain J. L. McGuigan,
U.S.N.

Refreshments will be served in the



Target Sound

ING PROGRAM . . .

Playing of National Anthem while Colors are raised

Transfer of Command to Captain Charles F. Coe, U.S.N.

Orders to Command and Remarks by Captain Charles F. Coe,
U.S.N.

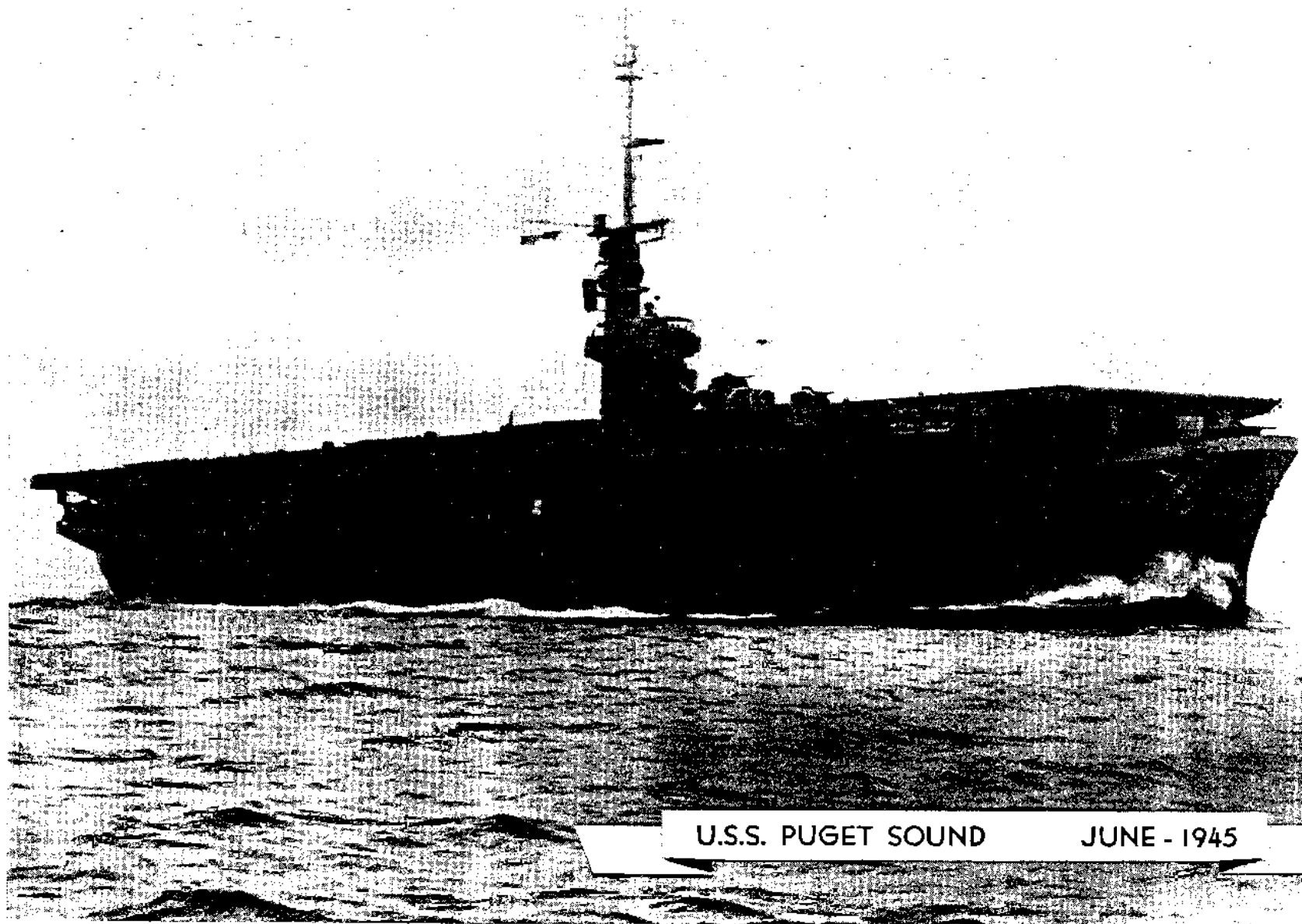
Setting of the Watch

Remarks by Flag Officer and Presentation of Medals

Presentation of Scroll, Bible and Flag by Women's Division of
War Finance Committee of King County

Retreat

Wardroom and the Crew's Mess



U.S.S. PUGET SOUND

JUNE - 1945