

**USS VELLA GULF CVE-111**

# USS VELLA GULF CVE - 111

## EX - TOTEM BAY

BUILDER : TODD - PACIFIC SEATTLE, WA.

KEEL LAID : 3 - 7 - 44

LAUNCHED : 10 - 19 - 44

COMMISSIONED : 4 - 9 - 45

AIR UNITS : MCVG - 3, VMF - 513 & VMTB - 234

CVE - 111 PICKED UP HER ASSIGNED MARINE AIR GROUP IN SAN DIEGO, CA. AND TRAINED OFF SOUTHERN CALIF. AFTER THE TRAINING PERIOD WAS OVER SHE DEPARTED FOR PEARL HARBOR. SHE THEN LEFT PEARL AND SAILED FOR THE MARIANAS TO CONDUCT AIR STRIKES AGAINST ROTA AND PAGAN ISLANDS. SHE SENT STRIKES AGAINST THESE ISLANDS BEFORE SHE FLEW OFF HER AIRCRAFT TO SAIPAN, AND THEN SAILED FOR OKINAWA.

THE VELLA GULF THEN PARTICIPATED IN THE INITIAL OPERATIONS OF THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS. SHE PROVIDED FOOD AND FUEL TO OTHER FLEET UNITS OFF THE COAST OF JAPAN BEFORE FRUITING AIR COVER FOR A REPLENISHMENT GROUP. SHE THEN SAILED FOR THE UNITED STATES. SHE STOPPED AT OKINAWA AND PICKED UP SERVICEMEN FOR PASSAGE BACK TO THE WEST COAST.

9 AUGUST 1946 WITHDRAWN FROM SERVICE. 1 NOVEMBER 1960 RETURNED TO OFFICIAL LIST ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER BEING STRICKEN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

IN 1964 THE VELLA GULF WAS TO BE CONVERTED TO MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS RELAY SHIP AFTER PATTERN OF THE USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR - 1) APPROVED IN THE 1964 BUDGET; THE PLAN WAS ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF EX CYL - 48 USS SAIPAN, ALREADY 60% CONVERTED TO CC - 3, WHICH WAS RECLASSIFIED AGMR - 2 AND RENAMED USS ARLINGTON. THEN CANCELED FATE UNKNOWN AS TO THIS DATE.



# U. S. S. VELLA GULF (CVE-111)

## COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

Assembly of Crew

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

Invocation by Chaplain J. P. Foley, USNR

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

Acceptance of ship for the U. S. Navy by Captain J. L. McGuigan, USN

Commissioning Orders and Remarks by Captain McGuigan, USN

Playing of the National Anthem while Colors are raised

Transfer of Command to Captain R. W. Morse, USN

Orders to Command and Remarks by Captain R. W. Morse, USN

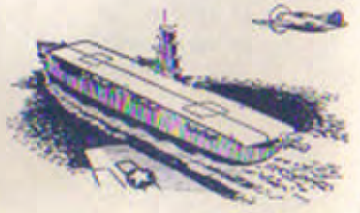
Setting of the Watch

Introduction of Guests

Retreat

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Refreshments will be served by the Wardroom Mess in the Wardroom and by the General Mess in the After Mess Hall



COURTESY of:  
BARBARA FOSTER  
AUBURN, CA, 2001  
HER 1st. HUSBAND  
LYLE BERG DM1c  
was A "PLANK OWNER"