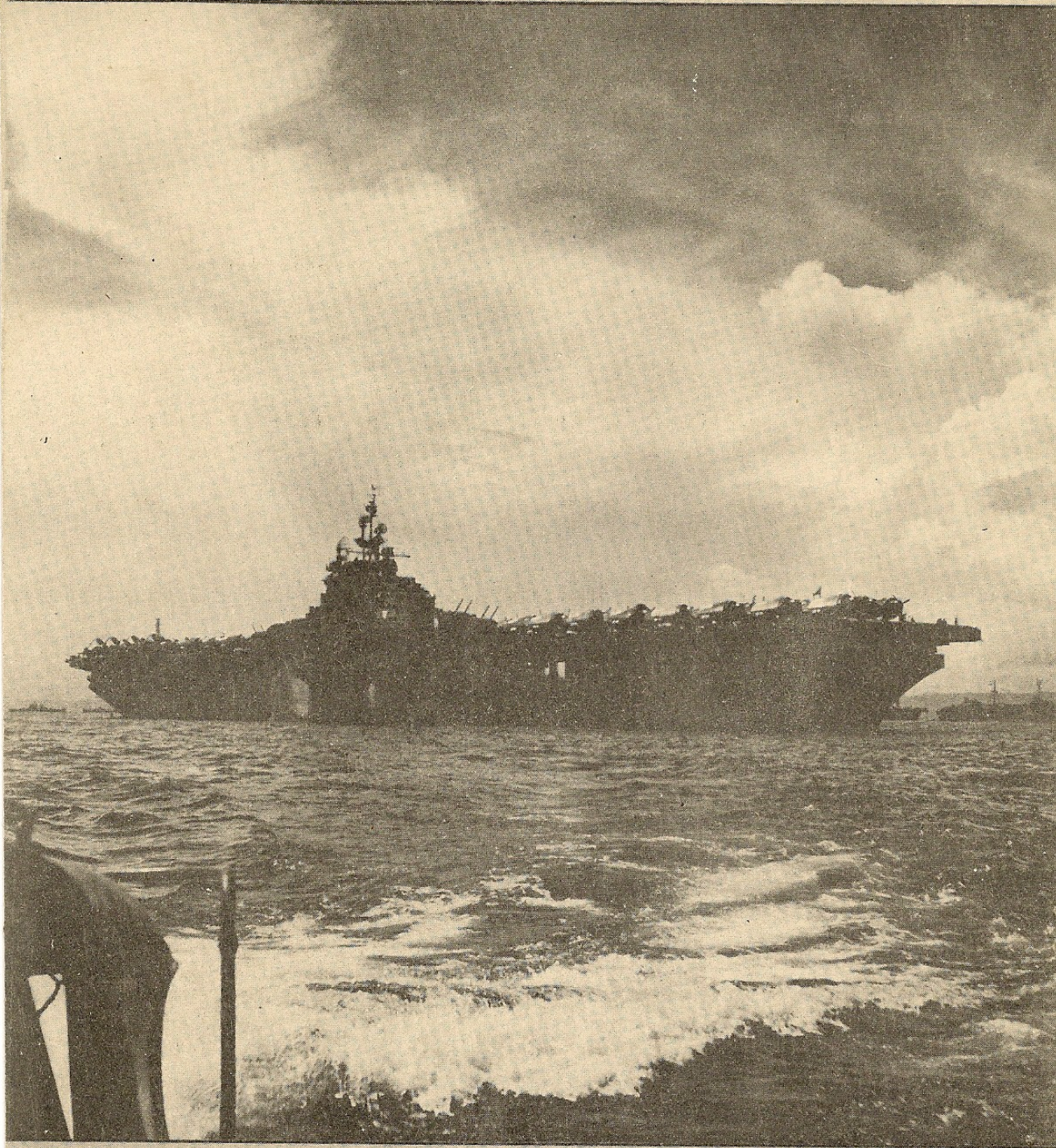


The U.S.S. RANDOLPH



NAVY DAY ★ 1945

Navy Day

Jackson R. Tate, Captain, U. S. N.

Commanding Officer

Home from the wars!!! Four marvelous words. Victory lay with our arms, and—let us keep in mind—it might have been otherwise except for certain battles our Navy won—sometimes by a thin margin.

Appropriately Navy Day is the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, who gave impetus to the concept of a strong American Navy which was carried to ultimate development in this war by another great President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, our late Commander-in-Chief.

We of the RANDOLPH are here to show the people of Maryland and Baltimore how we used those tools supplied by the people of these United States of America in defense of that happy land. From the days of that grim thin line at Guadalcanal, with only one carrier in commission, to the days of the victorious hammering strikes on the Japanese homeland, these tools you have forged have been used to the best of our ability.

It has not been an easy war but the tools were good, the hearts of the men were strong and our cause was just. A formula for Victory—May it always be so. So today we come to you in pride of the job well done and with cheer in our hearts for we are home.

May it be that we always have the strength and readiness so that no one dare attack us. Let there never again be that "Grim thin line." And at closing, let us remember those shipmates who did not come home—let not their sacrifices be in vain. Here is your Navy—Home from the wars.

Welcome Aboard

Randolph, second combatant Naval vessel to bear the name of Peyton Randolph, First President of the Continental Congress, was commissioned 9 October 1944. After a shortened outfitting period and shakedown cruise, she proceeded directly to San Francisco, California. Three weeks later, bristling with the newest in armament and combat proven equipment, she proceeded to Pearl Harbor. Within forty-eight hours she was underway for Ulithi where, battle ready, she joined the famed Fast Carrier Task Force of the Pacific Fleet. Four months and one day following commissioning RANDOLPH sortied with Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's forces to participate in the First and Second Carrier Raids on Tokyo, the Japanese home islands, and the Iwo Jima occupation. Then followed months operating against islands of the Nanpo Shoto, Nansei Shoto and the enemy homeland. Okinawa, Kamikaze Junction off Kyushu, the Inland Sea, Tokyo and waters about Hokkaido were her battle grounds until victory was attained. Twice damaged, once by an enemy twin-engined Kamikaze while at anchor at Ulithi, once by an Army aircraft at Leyte Gulf, "Randy" lost but little combat time, accomplishing all essential repairs in the forward areas. One year old, 100,000 miles traveled, seasoned by extensive combat service and with an enviable record, RANDOLPH returns to home waters to join the Atlantic Fleet and participate in the Nation's Navy Day.