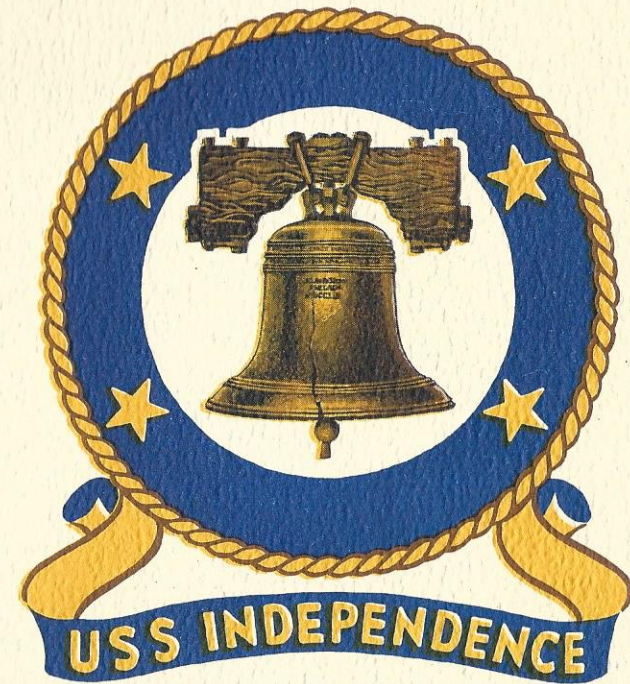



Commissioning



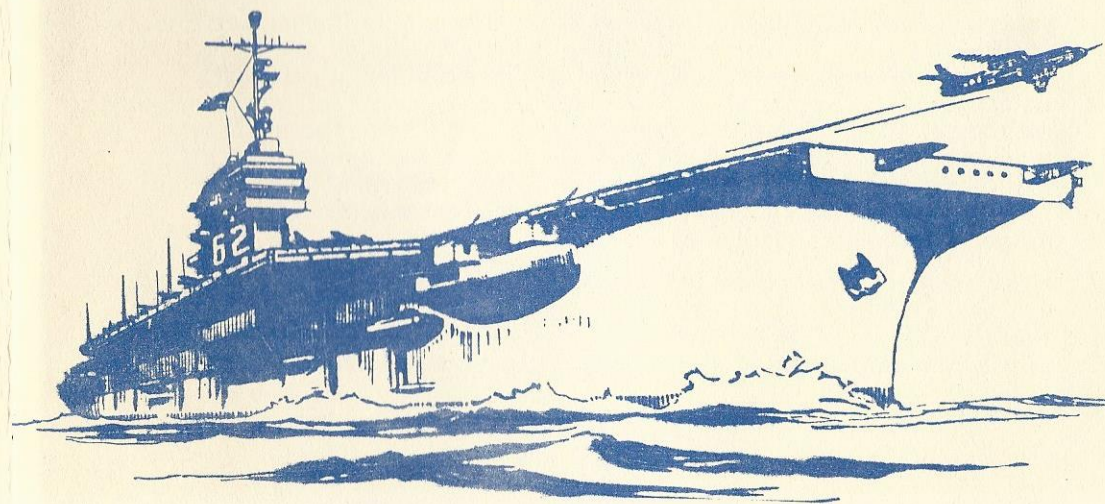
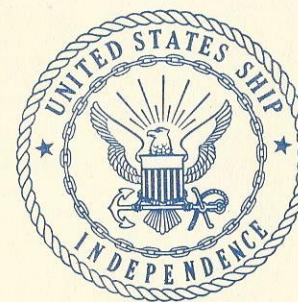
NEW YORK NAVAL SHIPYARD
NAVAL BASE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

We of INDEPENDENCE shall endeavor always to defend with honor the liberty of our land, maintaining constant vigilance in times of peace and steadfast courage in the event of attack. In all things it is our mission to set an example of readiness, determination, and faith, thus upholding the high standard of conduct handed down by our gallant predecessors.


R. Y. McELROY
Captain USN

U.S.S. INDEPENDENCE
CVA-62
COMMISSIONING
PROGRAM

10 JANUARY 1959



THE ROLE OF THE USS INDEPENDENCE IN OUR NEW NAVY

Traditionally, it has been the Navy's primary mission to control the seas. Without this control, our forces abroad would soon wither for lack of support, and our industry at home would slow down or even halt for lack of the raw materials that must be brought by the water routes of the world.

The coming of the atomic age has not changed this concept, but has, in fact, broadened it to include maintaining control of the air over the seas. This is the job of attack carriers like INDEPENDENCE—ships that embody the two key advantages of our Navy: mobility and versatility.

INDEPENDENCE is in effect a completely equipped air base. However, instead of being a stationary point on a map, a point that can be singled out by ballistic missiles, INDEPENDENCE can range the oceans of the world, changing her position hundreds of miles in a single day. INDEPENDENCE and her sister carriers allow us to assemble quickly great concentrations of power, and to deploy them rapidly and skillfully, always exerting continuous pressure on an enemy. And unlike bases overseas, these attack carriers are not dependent on the political temperaments of foreign governments.

Versatile as well as mobile, INDEPENDENCE can be used alternately or simultaneously against submarines and their bases, surface ships and their yards, aircraft and their airfields, and for the support of amphibious, land and air operations. In "brush fire" conflicts, the attack carrier can move quickly to supply the exact amount of offensive power called for by the situation; a capability so essential to ourselves and our allies in this era of nuclear stalemate. In the all too tragic event of total war, these ships represent mobile, hard-to-find bases from which retaliatory strikes can be launched against enemy military and industrial potential. In short, they are long-legged, far-ranging forces, giving confidence to friends and pause to any potential enemy.

Most important, the recognized offensive and defensive capabilities of INDEPENDENCE and her sister carriers give support to our foreign policy and strength to our allies—a powerful deterrent in preventing conflict and in maintaining peace around the world.



Arrival of the Official Party

Invocation by Chaplain of INDEPENDENCE
Commander William A. Taylor (CHC), U. S. Navy

Delivery of the Ship for commissioning by the Commander,
New York Naval Shipyard, RADM Schuyler N. Pyne, U. S. Navy

Acceptance of the ship for commissioning by the Commandant,
Third Naval District, RADM Chester C. Wood, U. S. Navy

The Commandant reads the commissioning
directive and orders that INDEPENDENCE be placed in commission

Playing of the National Anthem and hoisting of Colors,
Jack and Commission Pennant

The Prospective Commanding Officer,
Captain Rhodam Y. McElroy, U. S. Navy
reads his orders and assumes command

Rendering of Honors

Setting of the first Watch

Introduction of the Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Jr.

Remarks by the Secretary of the Navy

Introduction of the Chief of Naval Operations
Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, U. S. Navy

Address by Admiral Burke

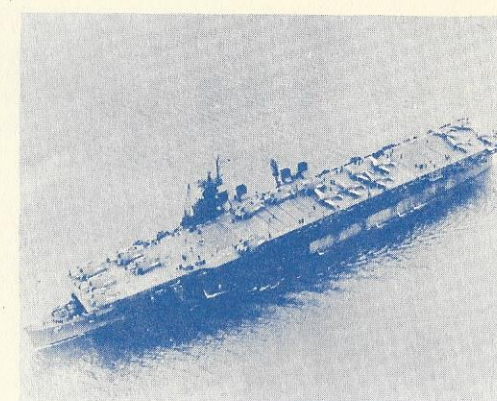
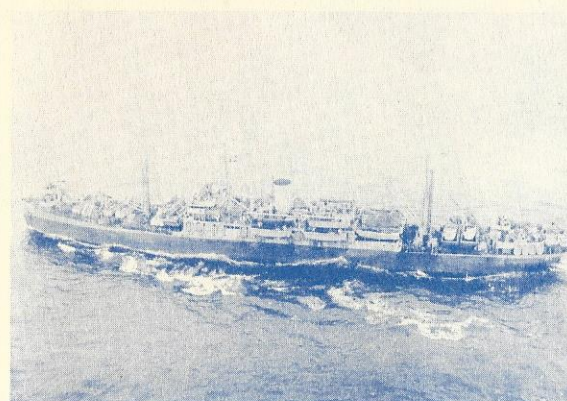
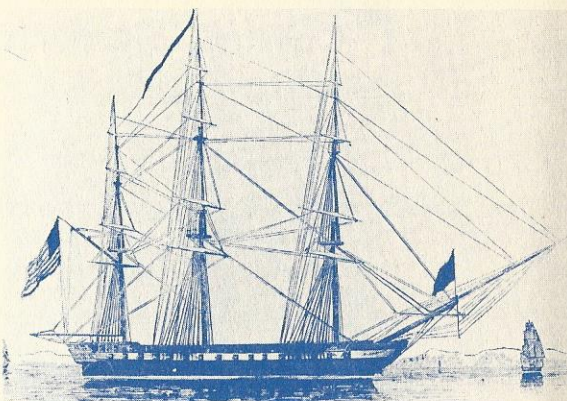
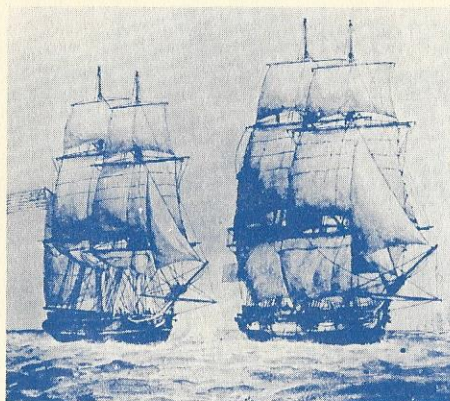
Introduction of Mrs. Thomas S. Gates, Ship's Sponsor

Presentation of gift by Ship's Sponsor

Benediction by Chaplain of INDEPENDENCE
Commander Thomas J. Burke, (CHC), U. S. Navy

Choral selections and recitation during the ceremony by the
Naval Academy Glee Club

INDEPENDENCE . . . A PROUD NAME IN NAVAL HISTORY



CVA-62 is the fifth ship in our Navy's history to bear the name, INDEPENDENCE.

The first was a continental sloop of 10 guns, under the command of Captain John Young. In 1777 she was ordered to France, carrying dispatches, and arrived at L'Orient late in September. She quickly disposed of two prizes before the British could interfere. On February 15th 1778 John Paul Jones sailed through the French Fleet in INDEPENDENCE and received the second official salute rendered the American Flag in recognition of American independence. The following spring INDEPENDENCE was wrecked while attempting to enter Ocracoke Inlet, North Carolina.

(During this period, 8 State vessels were also named INDEPENDENCE, and they ran up an impressive record against British shipping.)

* * * * *

The second INDEPENDENCE, our first ship of the line, was a 74 gun vessel, launched in 1814. She first served as flagship for Commodore Bainbridge's Mediterranean Squadron. In 1836 she was redesigned to carry 54 guns, including 8 eight-inch rifles. In 1847, during the Mexican War, she captured the enemy ship *Correo* and a launch. She was converted into a receiving ship for *Mare Island* in 1857 and continued in this service until she was placed out of commission in 1912.

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The third INDEPENDENCE was a cargo steamer, commissioned in the Naval Overseas Transportation Service in 1918. She was placed out of commission and returned to the Shipping Board in 1919.

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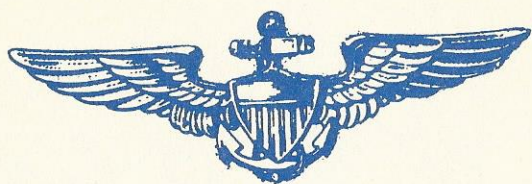
The fourth INDEPENDENCE, the first of several aircraft carriers

to be converted from cruiser hulls, was launched in 1942. Her first action found INDEPENDENCE teamed up with ESSEX and YORKTOWN in a strike against Marcus Island where they destroyed 70% of the enemy installations. Raids against Wake Island, Raboul, and Tarawa soon followed. At Tarawa, INDEPENDENCE took three torpedos in her starboard quarter. Casualties were kept light, and the ship was able to withdraw under her own power. As a result of this action, 14 were recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal and Captain R. L. Johnson received the Silver Star.

By mid '44 INDEPENDENCE was back in action as the first night operating carrier with CVLG (N)-41 embarked. She took part in the capture and occupation of Southern Palau and strikes in the Phillipines, and proved the value of the night carrier. She supported the landings on Luzon in January 1945, making strikes also on Formosa, the Ryukus, Indo-China, Hainan, and the China coast. In March, INDEPENDENCE began a 62 day operation in support of the Okinawan campaign, taking part in night strikes, sweeps, patrols, and support missions. Her next duty was with the Third Fleet, making attacks on the Japanese homeland. During this period Air Group 27 was credited with the sinking of the cruiser *Oyodo*.

In November 1945 INDEPENDENCE began "Magic Carpet" runs to San Francisco from Guam and Iwo Jima. In 1946 she was assigned as one of the target ships in the atomic tests at Bikini. Damaged but not sunk, INDEPENDENCE was towed to Kwajalein and decommissioned in August. She was berthed in San Francisco the following June, and radiological studies continued on her until she was sunk off the California coast in a special test in January 1951.

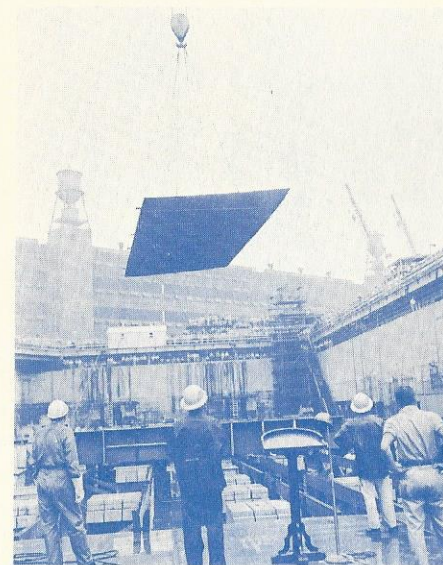
During World War II, INDEPENDENCE earned 8 battle stars for operations in the Pacific Area.



FACTS ABOUT INDEPENDENCE

Length Overall	Equals 80 Story Building
Height - Keel to Mast Top	Equals 25 Story Building
Extreme Beam	252 Feet
Area of Flight Deck	4.1 Acres
Amount of Steel Required	57,615 Tons
Amount of Weld Metal Used	1,000 Tons
Operating Displacement	Over 70,000 Tons
Horsepower	Over 200,000
Speed	Over 30 Knots
Fuel Consumption	Approximately 100 Tons per Day
Berthing Capacity	Over 4,000
Four Propellers (5 blades each)	21 Feet in Diameter
Two Anchors	30 Tons Each
Two Rudders	45 Tons Each
Four Deck Edge Elevators	79,000 Pounds Capacity Each
Four Aircraft Catapults	Steam Type
Number of Compartments	1501
Number of Meals Served Daily	Over 10,000
Number of Telephones	2,300
Daily Capacity of Ice-making Plant	5,200 Pounds
Daily Capacity of Fresh Water Plant	200,000 Gallons
Capacity of Air Conditioners	1,050 Tons

Built by the New York Naval Shipyard



The Keel is Laid



The Christening



Nearing Completion

U.S.S. INDEPENDENCE

CVA-62



CAPT R. Y. McElroy
Commanding Officer



CDR D. W. Cooper
Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT HEADS

CDR G. J. Brown
Operations

CDR A. J. Koenig
Dental

CDR R. D. Nauman
Medical

CDR J. W. Cartee
Supply

CDR T. J. Burke
Chaplain

CDR M. A. Lilly
Engineering

CDR G. E. Peddicord
Air

CDR C. B. Barry
Gunnery

CDR H. J. H. Cooke
Navigation

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Wendell Phillips - 1852