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How important is a name??

Battleships were named after states

Cruisers were named after cities

Destroyers were sometimes named after navy men who had performed heroic deeds

The Aloe and Ailanthus class net tenders were named after trees.

That probably isn't all bad either.

USS Ash & Redwood are stately trees.

USS Hackberry, Mulberry and Chinaberry are nice berry trees.

USS Catalpa, Papaya and Eucalyptus sounds rather exotic.

Regardless of the ship's name it seemed like most Net Tender sailors were proud of the name of their ship. They did not want anyone to misspell the name or call it by a different name.

USS Teak AN-35 was named after a tall East Indian tree whose strong, hard wood is known for durability and used in shipbuilding. Now if anyone had mistakenly called mild mannered Moose Meehan's ship USS Leak instead of Teak he probably would have hit the ceiling.

Eddie Pinson and Al Seguin, for some time, spelled my ship USS Anagua instead of Anaqua. I agree Anagua sounds more macho than Anaqua however it's not correct. Therefore I told myself that I would have to tell these guys to spell it right. I did. They advised me that they would do so.

Al Seguin was on USS Sandalwood AN-32. If you spell the name of his ship Sandlewood instead of Sandalwood you will have a quick response from a mad Frenchman. I and a couple of other fellows know that.

Information for the following story was received from Eddie Pinson from Butternut AN-9. It tells how one of his skipper's reacted when someone called his ship by the wrong name.

The **BUTTERNUT** was on it's way back to Long Beach. Eddie was at the helm. About 6 airmen decided that for kicks they would hitch a ride on her for some liberty. The skipper of course was also on the bridge. Shortly after getting underway one of the airman asked the skipper how they came up with the name **BUTTERCUP** ??

**BUTTERCUP !!! #@\$%\*+&%\$@# That's a flower !!!**

The skipper became enraged.

He reacted without thinking.

He lifted his leg and gave the poor airman a hard boot in his posterior, nearly lifting him off the deck. He then ordered all the airmen to leave the bridge.

It got real quiet for a few minutes. The skipper, normally a nice guy, was a little embarrassed and was heard mumbling something as he left the bridge. He loved his little ship, but—"Thou shalt not call it by any other name."

So how important is a name??

It's very important as noted in the above paragraphs.