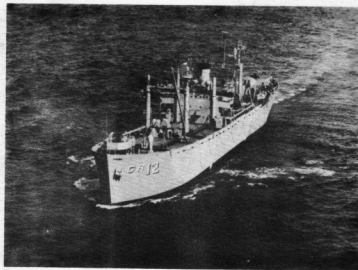


Contributed by Robert M. Cieri

U N I T E D S T A T E S S H I P

V I G I L

(YAGR-12)



Commissioning Program

5 MARCH 1957

PHILADELPHIA ☆ NAVAL ☆ SHIPYARD

A NAVAL COMMISSIONING



The commissioning marks the transition from conversion, construction or inactive status to active service as a unit of the United States Fleet. At the moment of hoisting the Commission Pennant the U. S. S. VIGIL becomes the responsibility of her Commanding Officer who, together with her officers and crew, then has the duty of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our country in peace or in war.



THE HONORABLE CHARLES S. THOMAS
Secretary of the Navy



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

Dear Captain Abstetar:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you and your officers and men my sincere best wishes on the occasion of the commissioning of USS VIGIL (YAGR-12).

When the VIGIL reports to the picket line, another link will be added to the Continental Air Defense System whose task is to guard the United States against enemy attack.

The significance of your mission and task offers a great challenge to you and the officers and men under your command. I am sure that you will meet this challenge proudly, that you will be vigilant at all times, and that you will establish in the VIGIL the high standards and traditions of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Thomas

LCDR Stanley Abstetar, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer
USS VIGIL (YAGR-12)
c/o Commandant
FOURTH Naval District
U. S. Naval Base
Philadelphia 12, Pennsylvania



ADMIRAL ARLIEGH A. BURKE, USN
Chief of Naval Operations



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

23 January 1957

Dear Captain:

I wish that I could be with you, your officers and crew to participate and share in the just pride which you must have in the commissioning of your ship, USS VIGIL (YAGR-12).

The significance of your task and the responsibility which this task entails is beyond measure. The VIGIL adds another link in the Continental Defense System to protect the United States by giving early warning of approaching aircraft. As you well know, a chain is as strong as its weakest link. The manner in which the VIGIL performs, therefore, will reflect the strength of the entire Continental Defense System.

It will be your privilege and that of your officers and men to serve as plank owners in the VIGIL, which has been provided with the most advanced developments in radio and electronics equipments. In addition, every consideration has been given to your physical comfort in order to relieve the burden of your long patrols.

Your task is a mighty one, but I am confident that when you "Set the Watch" you and your team will report with all the skill and zeal at your command and that VIGIL will patrol the picket line in a vigilant manner which exemplifies her name.

To each and every one God's help and my very best wishes for a good cruise.

Sincerely yours,

ARLEIGH BURKE
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY

LCDR Stanley Abstetar, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
USS VIGIL (YAGR-12)
Commandant
4th Naval District
Naval Base
Philadelphia 12, Pa.



REAR ADMIRAL
HUGH H. GOODWIN, USN
Commander, Naval Forces
Continental Air Defense Command



REAR ADMIRAL
EPHRAIM R. McLEAN, JR., USN
Commandant
Fourth Naval District



CAPTAIN J. D. BLITCH, USN
Commander, Naval Forces
Eastern Continental Air Defense
Command



LCDR S. ABSTETAR, USNR
Commanding Officer
USS VIGIL



The United States Ship

VIGIL

(YAGR-12)

The USS VIGIL, formerly named the SS RAYMOND VAN BROGAN, was built in the Wainwright Yards of the J. A. Jones Construction Co. in Panama City, Florida. Work was started on the liberty-type ship on 14 December, 1944 and she was launched on 19 January, 1945, at which time she was delivered to her owners, the War Shipping Administration of the U. S. Government. Pensacola, Florida was designated her home port.

Following a shake-down period, the ship was sent to Terminal Island, California, making her first Panama Canal passage on 19 February, 1945. Here she was operated by the A. H. Bull and Company for the War Shipping Administration. She commenced her first voyage on 14 March, 1945, carrying war material, aircraft, and a limited number of troops in addition to her regular crew of 50 and her Naval gun crew of 29. In April and July of 1945, she again made cruises, carrying vital cargo to various foreign ports. During this period she was commanded by Captain Melvin L. Callis, Master.

Following the war, operation of the RAYMOND VAN BROGAN was assigned to the Waterman Steamship Corp., and her base of operations was transferred to Mobile, Alabama. Captain Robert S. McColl became the ship's Master, and under his command she made several voyages to various foreign ports. In the summer of 1947, she was deactivated and in the latter part of that year was placed in the Tensas River Reserve Fleet at Mobile.

In June of 1956, the RAYMOND VAN BROGAN was called into active Naval service from the mothball fleet. She was moved to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and there underwent extensive conversion to become the the USS VIGIL, the twelfth Radar Station Ship of the Continental Air Defense Command.

Following her commissioning and shake-down period, the VIGIL will join her sister ships on patrol as another link in America's expanding defenses against sneak attack.





U. S. S. VIGIL
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. COMMISSIONING DIRECTIVE
REAR ADMIRAL E. R. McLEAN, Jr., USN
<i>Commandant, Fourth Naval District</i></p> <p>2. COMMISSIONING
<i>Hoisting of the National Ensign, Jack and Commission Pennant. Breaking the personal flag of RADM E. R. McLEAN, Jr., with appropriate honors.</i></p> <p>3. INVOCATION
CAPTAIN W. F. CUTHRIELL, ChC, USN
<i>District Chaplain, Fourth Naval District</i></p> <p>4. ACCEPTANCE OF COMMAND
LCDR S. ABSTETAR, USNR</p> <p>5. SETTING OF THE WATCH
LCDR S. ABSTETAR, USNR
<i>Commanding Officer</i></p> | <p>6. INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
REAR ADMIRAL E. R. McLEAN, Jr., USN
<i>Commandant</i></p> <p>7. ADDRESS
REAR ADMIRAL E. R. McLEAN, Jr., USN
<i>Commandant</i></p> <p>8. CONCLUDING REMARKS
LCDR S. ABSTETAR, USNR
<i>Commanding Officer</i></p> <p>9. BENEDICTION
CAPTAIN W. F. CUTHRIELL, ChC, USN</p> <p>10. PIPE DOWN
LCDR S. ABSTETAR, USNR
<i>Commanding Officer</i></p> <p>11. RECEIVE GUESTS, REFRESHMENTS</p> |
|--|--|





U. S. S. VIGIL
(YAGR-12)



BUILT BY
J. A. JONES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

JANUARY 1945

for

WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION



NAMED
RAYMOND VAN BROGAN



COMMISSIONED
U. S. S. VIGIL (YAGR-12)
5 MARCH 1957



PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





Officers

USS VIGIL (YAGR-12)

Lieutenant Commander S. ABSTETAR, USNR
Commanding Officer

Lieutenant THOMAS E. WYNKOOP, USN
Executive Officer

Lieutenant LADIMIR J. ZVANOVEC, USNR
Operations Officer

Lieutenant (jg) RUSSELL D. RAINEY II, USNR
First Lieutenant

Lieutenant (jg) RICHARD C. RUSSELL, USNR
Engineering Officer

Lieutenant (jg) RALPH P. MISCHITELLI, USNR
Combat Information Center Officer

Ensign RICHARD T. BURNS, USNR
Assistant First Lieutenant

Ensign JOHN B. BOATWRIGHT, USNR
Gunnery Officer

Ensign JACK L. LAHR, USNR
Damage Control Assistant

Ensign PHILIP RUBENSTEIN, USNR
Communications Officer

Ensign ALBERT J. WELLS, JR., USNR
Assistant Combat Information Center Officer

Ensign JAMES E. FLYNN, JR., USNR
Assistant Operations Officer

Ensign ALVIN L. FREEMAN, JR., USNR
Stores Officer

Electronics Technician W-1, RUDOLPH PAEZ, USN
Electronics Officer

Machinist W-1 JOEL R. HARRIS, USN
Main Propulsion Assistant





Chief Petty Officers

USS VIGIL (YAGR-12)



R. D. ALTMAN, *Chief Radarman, USN*

D. J. BEHL, *Chief Boilerman, USN*

W. C. BENTON, *Chief Machinist Mate, USN*

G. O. FISHER, *Chief Hospitalman, USN*

J. A. FURLONG, *Chief Storekeeper, USN*

J. H. McELLAGOTT, *Chief Radarman, USN*

W. C. W. PEACOCK, *Chief Electrician's Mate, USN*

L. L. POGANY, *Chief Machinist's Mate, USN*

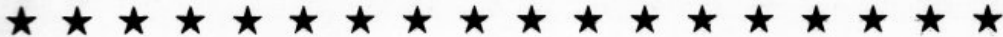
H. R. SPINNEY, *Chief Boatswain's Mate, USN*

C. H. SMITH, *Chief Boilerman, USN*

J. J. WADE, *Chief Engineman, USN*

R. J. ZIHALA, *Chief Radioman, USN*





Enlisted Personnel

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Operations Communication Division

LOCKMAN, T. T.	QM1	RILEY, T. F.	RM3
DELP, W. G.	RM1	STRAUSS, E. A.	RM3
CHENOWETH, C. E.	RM1	VAN MILL, P. R.	RM3
BROWN, E. R.	TE1	KLUSAK, W.	TE3
WILSON, E. M.	RM2	PROVENCHER, D. J.	RMSN
COLLINS, V. L.	RM2	COLLINS, B. L.	SN
PERREAULT, P. W.	RM2	KEMERER, M. F.	SN
GRADY, B. "J"	QM3	SPERLE, J.	SN
GRANT, R. F.	QM3	BYRNE, J. F.	RMSA
JACOBSON, R. G.	QM3	GALLARO, A. J.	RMSA
VARGA, G. E.	SM3		

Operations Electronics Division

CONNOR, A. E.	ET1	STEUP, R. B.	ET3
PATKUS, J. T.	ET2	ROSENBERGER, W. L., Jr.	ETNSN
DANELS, S. C.	ET3	LONG, C. E.	SA
GOTHE, A. L.	ET3	ZIGAS, G. F.	SA

Ship's Office Personnel

MOORE, H. D., Jr.	YN1	KESTER, M. C.	SN
MULVANEY, P. J.	PN3	UNDERWOOD, J. L.	SA
BARDON, J. A.	SN		

Operations Intelligence Division

EDDY, R. A.	RD1	HARRIS, R. H.	RD3
LOCKHART, B. R.	RD2	MANSFIELD, J. F.	SN
ALBRECHT, W. V., Jr.	RD3	ARMBRUSTER, R. E.	RDSA
BROWN, L. H.	RD3	KLEBAN, J. J.	RDSA
CAMPBELL, R. M.	RD3	NOONAN, J. F.	RDSA
COLEMAN, L.	RD3	ROY, R. J.	RDSA
DEMBOWSKI, J. J.	RD3	WINT, R. A.	RDSA





DECK DEPARTMENT

First Division

MOLL, H.	BM1	BENTON, P. D.	SA
SARGAVY, W. S.	GM1	BREWER, L. R.	SA
GIBSON, H. E.	BM2	DOERLER, R. E.	SA
HEBDING, H. J.	BM3	DRACH, W. B.	SA
MOORE, R. F.	GM3	ESPOSITO, R.	SA
INGEGNERI, J. A.	BMGSN	FELLOWS, F. A.	SA
BERRYHILL, J. T.	SN	FERGUSON, H. G.	SA
BOWERS, C. F.	SN	KARSHNER, J. L.	SA
CALDEIRA, J. J.	SN	MILLER, C. A.	SA
CESLIKOSKI, M. R.	SN	MOFFATT, P. W.	SA
CHADWICH, J. M.	SN	MITCHELL, E. D.	SA
EMERSON, J. E.	SN	MONTPAS, P. L.	SA
INCONTRERA, F. V.	SN	PETERWORTH, J. B.	SA
JACOBS, V. F.	SN	PETTY, G.	SA
KELLEY, J. L.	SN	SANFORD, G. E.	SA
SATTERFIELD, L. E.	SN	SMITH, R. L.	SA
YATES, R. H.	SN	STEFANIK, R. J.	SA
ENLOW, C. E.	SN	STEWART, J. C.	SA
PALMER, T. P.	SN	SULLO, A.	SA
BARR, H. S.	SA	WAGNER, W. L.	SA
BENNETT, P. W., Jr.	SA		

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

"S" Division

SHAULIS, A. J.	SKI	PORCH, M.	SH3
MEYERS, J. T.	CS1	ANDERSON, C.	TN
MYERS, A.	SD1	BYRD, R.	TN
DUDLEY, T. W.	CS2	DELA CRUZ, L. D.	TN
OBERT, J. H.	CS2	LEE, W. J.	TN
LE BLANC, R. J.	SH2	SANDERS, C.	TN
COLEY, W. E.	SK3	SLATER, C.	TN
ELDEB, W.	CS3		





ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

"M" Division

BERRY, P., Jr.	MM1	SIMMONS, C. K.	MM3
SAVAGE, E. L.	MM1	PRICE, C. C.	FN
SCHULTZ, F. K.	MM1	ARMINAS, J. J.	MMFA
NORRIS, R. G.	MM2	CASELLA, J., Jr.	MMFA
PRESCOTT, J. O.	MM2	HUGHES, E. D.	MMFA
ALEX, M. E.	MM3	HUGHES, G. R.	MMFA
MADORE, G. A.	MM3	INLOW, C. L.	FA

"B" Division

WHIPPLE, A. F.	BT1	FIEDLER, W. G.	BTFA
BOYD, T. L., Jr.	BT2	BASHFORD, R. L.	FA
BENEDETTI, L. J.	BT3	BAUER, R. A.	FA
McDONALD, L. B.	BT3	BELL, P. W.	FA
CLOSE, E. B.	FN	BRESLIN, W. T.	FA
LAUBER, E.	FN	FELL, B.	FA
STEVENS, R. R.	FN	MACIOLEK, R. S.	FA
STEWART, H. M.	FN		

"A" Division

NEWBERRY, C. E.	DC1	CAMPBELL, R. J.	DCG3
CRUTCHLEY, A. C.	EM1	GORMAN, L. D.	SN
ASP, H. W.	ME1	CONNORS, J. W.	FN
HEDGES, R. E.	EN2	GIBBS, R. F.	FN
CHAFEY, D. W.	EM2	LANGLEY, F. J.	FN
HARVEY, W. R.	IC2	RAHILL, R. W., Jr.	FN
BROWNE, L. W.	FP2	WARD, J. W.	FN
TRACY, D. E.	EN3	MAHLER, J. G.	FA
WALSKI, M., Jr.	MR3	MARSHALL, D. R.	FA
ESPOSITO, L. D.	IC3	McHENRY, R. C.	FA

