

Contributed by Michael Nuzzo Jr.



USS Wyandot

A NAVAL COMMISSIONING

The commissioning ceremony marks the transition of a ship from construction status or reserve fleet status to active service as a unit of the United States Fleet. The distinctive mark of a ship in full commission is the commission pennant which is flown continuously except when replaced by the personal flag of an officer of the United States embarked in an official status.

At the moment of hoisting the commission pennant the United States Ship WYANDOT (AKA 92) becomes the responsibility of her Commanding Officer who, together with her crew, has the duty of making and keeping her constantly ready for any service demanded by our nation in peace or in war.

HISTORY OF WYANDOT

USS WYANDOT, named for a county in Northwestern Ohio, which in turn had been named for a tribe of Indians of that region, was built for the U. S. Maritime Commission by the Moore Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company, Oakland, California, and was launched on 26 June 1944. But she was acquired and commissioned by the Navy on 30 September 1944, as an attack cargo ship.

WYANDOT saw service in the Pacific from the time of her commissioning to the end of World War II. It was during this period that WYANDOT participated in the invasion of Okinawa. At the war's end, she remained a member of the Pacific Fleet until December 1945, at which time she became a member of the Atlantic Fleet and operated off the East Coast until July 1947 when she departed for Arctic Operations. This was the beginning of WYANDOT's participation in various operations in the Arctic and Antarctic waters.

In 1955 WYANDOT was one of the major units of Task Force Forty Three which conducted operation Deep Freeze in the Antarctic in 1955-56 under the leadership of RADM R. E. BYRD. When the WYANDOT was making another Antarctic voyage in 1959, she carried on deck the first plane ever to land at the South Pole, a Navy R4D aircraft named **Que Sera Sera**.

WYANDOT was decommissioned on 10 July 1959 and thereby became a member of the U. S. Atlantic Reserve Fleet, and so remains until joining the active fleet today.

For her services in the fleet, WYANDOT is authorized to display the American Campaign Medal Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal Ribbon with one battle star, World War II Victory Medal, and the National Defense Service Ribbon.

WYANDOT'S MISSION

USS WYANDOT (AKA-92) a member of the Amphibious Force is an attack cargo ship with a mission of landing guns, vehicles, men and supplies in the condition and order needed by the assault troops.

To accomplish its mission WYANDOT carries a total of fourteen landing craft and two control boats. In this type of vessel, landing craft are considered the main battery. The landing craft have the ability to transport a number of combat loaded troops and/or cargo to the beach and thereby inflict WYANDOT's punch against the enemy. These boats run through the surf to a beach, lower the ramp, unload men and cargo, retreat and return to the ship.

The cargo WYANDOT will transport may be combat rolling stock or bulk combat supplies carried in one of the ship's seven holds. Four of the holds are forward of the ship's superstructure and three aft. To enable ship's company to efficiently operate these holds the ship is provided with various cargo booms—four 30 ton booms and six 10 ton booms—with their appurtenant rigging which allows for safe operation.

WYANDOT has an allowance of 24 officers and 241 enlisted men. Troops are also carried when the ship is combat loaded.

Because of WYANDOT's ability to load, transport, offload, and move to the beach necessary equipment and cargo she plays a vital role in Amphibious Landings and is an essential unit in modern Amphibious warfare.



REAR ADMIRAL FREDERICK BURDETT WARDER, USN

Rear Admiral Warder was born in Grafton, West Virginia, and attended parochial and public schools there before his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated with the class of 1925.

He was assigned to USS MILWAUKEE and spent two and a half years on board before entering Submarine School at New London, Connecticut in January 1928. He joined USS S-16 in July of that year, and from then until August 1948 all of his sea duty assignments were in the submarine service.

As commanding officer of USS SEAWOLF during World War II he saw extensive action in the Pacific and for that service he was awarded the Navy's highest decoration, the Navy Cross. Subsequent war patrols in SEAWOLF brought him a second Navy Cross, a Bronze Star Medal, two Navy Unit Commendations, and two individual Letters of Commendation. He relinquished command of SEAWOLF in January 1943 to become Commander of Submarine Division 122. He also commanded Submarine Squadron THREE and USS COLUMBUS.

Admiral Warder was appointed to flag rank in September 1952, and has flown his flag as Commander, Cruiser Division FIVE and as Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Other flag rank assignments were Deputy Chief of Staff for the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Undersea Warfare.

He assumed duties as Commandant of the Eighth Naval District, with headquarters in New Orleans, on January 29, 1960.



REAR ADMIRAL JAMES C. DEMPSEY, USN

Rear Admiral Dempsey was born in Eastport, Maryland on August 30, 1908 and entered the U. S. Naval Academy in 1927. He graduated in 1931 and after two years service on the USS OKLAHOMA entered the submarine service in 1933. After coaching boxing at the Naval Academy for three months he served in submarines from 1934 to June 1938. He then attended post graduate school at the Naval Academy and graduated from the General Line Course in 1939. From July 1939 to January 1940 he was an instructor and plans officer at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, Rhode Island. He then rejoined the USS SHARK, where he had seen duty previously, as executive officer. In November 1941 he left the SHARK to assume command of the USS S-37 in the Philippines. While he was commanding, the S-37 was the first U. S. submarine ever to sink an enemy destroyer. This feat, during the battle of Makassar Strait, earned him the Navy Cross. From March 1942 to March 1943 he was Commanding Officer of the USS SPEARFISH and while holding this command he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a second Navy Cross. Completing his tenth war patrol, while in command of the USS COD, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," and a Gold Star in lieu of the second Bronze Star Medal for heroic service during patrols of the SPEARFISH and COD. He served for two months as Operational Planning Officer on the Staff of Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific Force before serving as Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander, Submarines, Atlantic Fleet. During the later part of 1945 and until November 1946 he commanded Submarine Divisions 101 and 72. For services during World War II he received three Letters of Commendation, with Ribbon, two stars and Combat "V." Admiral Dempsey's post war assignments have included duty on USS ADIRONDACK; executive officer of the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor and as acting Commanding Officer of that base; Senior Course at the Naval War College; Commander Submarine Squadron One; Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Joint Strategic Planning Group; Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans) to the Commander Submarines, Eastern Atlantic (NATO); Commanding Officer USS WACCAMAW; Second-in-Command of the Mobile Logistic Support Force Sixth Fleet; Commander Submarine Flotilla One; and Commander Military Sea Transportation Service, Atlantic Area, Brooklyn, New York.

Admiral Dempsey is presently serving as Commander Amphibious Group Two, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

Commissioning Ceremony

USS WYANDOT (AKA 92)

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| Band Selections | Naval Air Technical Training Band Memphis, Tennessee Ensign Stanley Surber, USN, Director |
| Welcome | Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., USN Commanding Officer |
| Invocation | Father Matthew Faschan, S. M. Assistant Pastor St. Joseph's Catholic Church |
| Introduction of Guests | Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., USN |
| Introduction of Commandant, Eighth Naval District | Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., USN |
| Introduction of Commander Amphibious Group Two | Rear Admiral F. B. Warder, USN |
| Address | Rear Admiral J. C. Dempsey, USN |
| Remarks and Reading of Orders to Commission | Rear Admiral F. B. Warder, USN |
| Assumption of Command | Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., USN |
| <i>Commission Pennant is hoisted as the band plays the National Anthem. The ship is now in commission.</i> | |
| "Set the Watch" | USS WYANDOT's Ship's Company |
| Remarks | Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., USN |
| Benediction | Captain S. B. Bennett, ChC, USN District Chaplain, Eighth Naval District |

*Reception follows at Wardroom
and Enlisted Men's Mess*



CAPTAIN F. R. WHITBY, JR., USN

Captain F. R. Whitby, Jr., was graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, California, in 1934 and was commissioned in the U. S. Naval Reserve in May of that year. At the commencement of World War II he was assigned to active duty at Treasure Island, but shortly thereafter was in the South Pacific as executive officer of the USS WHIPSTOCK. While in that area he was transferred to the USS KANKAKEE (AO 39) as gunnery officer and later became executive officer. From March 1944 until December 1945 he served again in the Pacific, as executive officer of the USS DREW (APA 172). After accepting a commission in the regular navy early in 1946, he went to the USS BALTIMORE (CA 68) as executive officer and as commanding officer when she was decommissioned in Bremerton, Washington.

After tours of duty with Pacific Reserve Fleet in Bremerton and the Staff, General Line School, Monterey, California, he became Commanding Officer of the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON (DD 786) which saw action in the Korean Conflict, and while commanding the RICHARD B. ANDERSON he was awarded two bronze stars. After being relieved of command of the RICHARD B. ANDERSON in May 1954 he served tours of duty on the Staff, Commander Destroyer Flotilla Six based at Newport R. I. and at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California. Then in July 1957 Captain Whitby became Division Commander of Destroyer Division 172 in the Pacific, which he held until February 1959.

Captain Whitby then served as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Morale Services, and it is from that post that he comes to command WYANDOT.

Captain Whitby resides with his wife and family at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

SHIP'S OFFICERS

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Frank R. WHITBY, Jr., Captain, USN | Commanding Officer |
| John B. GRIFFIN, Commander, USN | Executive Officer |
| James G. GIBBONS, Lieutenant Commander, USN | Operations Officer |
| Blaxton V. TODD, Lieutenant, SC, USN | Supply Officer |
| Ferdinand C. DUGAN, III, Lieutenant, USN | Navigator |
| Ronald S. FRIEDMAN, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USN | Engineering Officer |
| Richard W. HAYWARD, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USN | First Lieutenant |
| John E. HEFFLEY, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USNR | CIC Officer |
| James J. POKORNY, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USNR | Boat Group Commander |
| William E. DAWSON, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USNR | First Division Officer |
| Howard L. HARDEGREE, Lieutenant Junior Grade, USNR | Gunnery Officer |
| John H. DAVIS, Ensign, USN | Main Propulsion Assistant |
| Robert M. RHODES, Ensign, USN | Communications Officer |
| Robert P. FUSCALDO, Ensign, USNR | Damage Control Assistant |
| Gilbert P. MAHLA, Ensign, USNR | Assistant Boat Group Commander |
| Roger A. GERTH, Ensign, USNR | Ship's Electrical Officer |
| James P. HAWKINS, Ensign, USNR | Assistant Communications Officer |
| Peter J. DE PASQUALE, Ensign, USNR | Assistant First Lieutenant |
| Peter E. PALM, Ensign, USNR | Assistant Navigator |
| Thomas A. ADDISON, Jr., Ensign, USNR | Electronics Material Officer |
| Dennis K. ALLEN, Ensign, USNR | Personnel Officer |
| Charles V. Neubert, CWO W4, USN | Repair Officer |
| Charles L. BOLAND, CWO W3, USN | Assistant Supply Officer |
| Christopher G. SCHMIDT, CWO W2, USN | Ship's Boatswain |

SHIP'S CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Maitland F. BAKER, SKCS, USN | Harold D. MALONE, SFCA, USN |
| Gene W. BEAVER, RMCA, USN | Gavin E. MOSLEY, BTCA, USN |
| David T. EAST, ENC, USN | Michael J. NELAN, SMCA, USN |
| Rupert L. FRAZIER, YNC, USN | Joe M. STOTT, QMC, USN |
| John H. JONES, BMCA, USN | Shurman W. WILLARD, GMTC, USN |
| Maurice E. KANAN, HMCA, USN | Oscar W. WYNN, CSC, USN |
| Ralph M. WOOD, MMCS, USN | |

SHIP'S CREW

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Walter H. ADAMS, BM1, USN | Danilo P. BERNABE, TN, USN |
| Dwayne E. ALBIN, EMFN, USN | Marcos D. BESA, Jr., TN, USN |
| Robert P. ALDUINO, RDSN, USN | James R. BISHOP, SA, USN |
| Carnes P. ALEXANDER, RMSA, USN | Michael R. BLAMA, EMFA, USN |
| Edward ARNOLD, SA, USN | Francis D. BOOTH, MM2, USN |
| Samuel G. ASTON, ENFA, USN | William L. BOWEN, SN, USN |
| Francis W. BACKUS, EN1, USN | John D. BOWERS, SA, USN |
| Howard B. BAKER, SH3, USN | Robert L. BOWERS, BT3, USN |
| William E. BARCLAY, SN, USN | Melvin L. BRACKEN, CS3, USN |
| Paul T. BARNABY, SA, USN | James E. BRADEN, SM3, USN |
| Joe J. BATES, EM1-PI, USN | Paul BRADLEY, BM3, USN |
| William J. BAUMAN, FN, USN | Leroy T. BRIGHTON, Jr., SN, USN |
| Cordell BELK, FN, USN | Robert H. BROCHU, SKSN, USN |
| John R. BEBOUT, SN, USN | Elbridge E. BROUGHTON, BT3, USN |
| James BENNETT, SN, USN | Michael R. BULLIS, SA, USN |

SHIP'S CREW (Continued)

Arthur F. BURKE, SN, USN
Charles L. BURKETT, Jr., EMFA, USN
William H. BURSCH, EN3, USN
Kenneth C. CABLE, SN, USN
Barry A. CAIN, ENFA, USN
Bienvenido F. CALBU, TN, USN
Maurice P. CAMPBELL, SN, USN
Joseph W. CHANDLER, FT2, USN
Walter W. CLARK, BT3, USN
Dale N. COOK, ET2, USN
George W. COPELAND, FA, USN
Franklin W. CRADIC, BMSN, USN
Francis K. CURRAN, RM3, USN
Roger W. CURREY, SA, USN
Dennis R. DALTON, FN, USN
Robert J. DAMRON, FN, USN
Guy T. DAVIS, BM3, USN
Gilbert DAWSON, SD2, USN
John A. DELL, BT3, USN
Jerome M. DERANEK, RMSN, USN
John D. DICKINSON, SN, USN
William V. DILLS, RMSN, USN
James D. DONALDSON, FN, USN
Michael DOUGLASS, SK3, USN
Jerome S. C. DUNCAN, HM3, USN
Thomas A. ENSINGER, SMSN, USN
Joseph A. ESTRELLA, SR, USN
Rogelio K. ESERIO, TN, USN
James F. EWING, IC2, USN
William H. FARMER, EM2-P1, USN
James R. FERGUSON, SA, USN
Robert L. FISCOR, SN, USN
William D. FOWLER, MMFN, USN
Russell G. FRANKS, SN, USN
Dennis W. FRAZIER, BM3, USN
Duane E. FRITZ, SA, USN
Patrick W. E., FA, USN
Lawrence E. GALLAGHER, RD1, USN
James F. GAMBLE, BM2, USN
John P. GARDINER, EM1-P1, USN
James W. GERRARD, FN, USN
Thomas S. GOCKEL, IC3, USN
Hearman C. GOOD, BM2, USN
Walter E. GOODE, SN, USN
Richard S. GRAHAM, FA, USN
Joseph GRANAHAN, SA, USN
James E. GRINDSTAFF, PN2, USN
Wayne C. GUZIE, ENFA, USN
Peter HAGA, SA, USN
William H. HALCOMB, SFP3, USN
Carl L. HALL, SN, USN
James C. HARLOW, EN3, USN
Clarence J. HARRIS, SD3, USN
William L. HARRIS, PNSN, USN
George J. HAYWARD, SMSN, USN
Samuel HENRY, Jr., SA, USN
Thomas J. HILL, RMSN, USN
Jack D. HODGE, Jr., MM3, USN
Lawrence C. HOLTON, SN, USN
Ronald G. HOWE, SA, USN
Charles G. HOWLAND, Jr., DK2, USN
Chester HRABAL, Jr., SA, USN
George Melvin HUFFNAGLE, MM3, USN
Bobby J. HUGHES, EM2-P1, USN
Charles R. HUGHES, SN, USN
Ronald C. JACKSON, RDSN, USN
Richard D. JACOB, SA, USN
Joseph C. JEGGETTS, TN, USN
Billy L. JOHNSON, QM3, USN
Thomas E. KADOW, EN3, USN
Godfried G. KAISER, SHSN, USN
John F. KEARNEY, BM3, USN
William M. KEMP, Jr., FN, USN
Douglas G. KENT, SA, USN
Viridis M. KEY, BT2-P1, USN
Albert A. KING, BMSN, USN
Kenneth A. KLUG, SA, USN
James T. KOZEMCHAK, SA, USN
Richard A. KOPPES, SFM2, USN
Ralph E. KUEHL, FA, USN
Noel M. LAMIE, SK3, USN
James R. LAND, SA, USN
Kenneth P. LANTZ, FA, USN
William A. LASSITER, SM2, USN
Robert S. LAGOE, RD3, USN
Robert A. LATHAM, ETRSN, USN
Allan C. LENESKY, YNSN, USN
Roger S. LIPPOTH, FA, USN
William B. LOCKE, MM3, USN
Dennis F. LOMBARDI, EMFN, USN
James F. LOONEY, SA, USN
Edward R. LORD, Jr., FA, USN
Michael H. LYNCH, MMFN, USN
Edward T. LYON, BT1, USN
Harlan E. MARKULA, EN2, USN
Thomas A. MARUSEN, SN, USN
Frank MARTINSKI, SN, USN
Willie L. MC CLENEY, GM2, USN
Franklin D. MC CLURE, FA, USN
Lewis W. MC COMAS, Jr., RM2, USN
James L. MC CULLOUGH, MM2, USN
Richard L. MC GRATH, SN, USN
Luther MC KELLAR, SD3, USN
William A. MC MILLION, RM3, USN

SHIP'S CREW (Continued)

Stephen T. MC SORLEY, FA, USN
Allan D. MELTZ, SA, USN
Thomas G. MINERVINO, SN, USN
Richard A. MINNIS, FN, USN
Robert MONAGHAN, Jr., BT2, USN
John F. MOORE, III, SN, USN
Samuel L. MOORE, SD1, USN
Richard L. MORANG, BM2, USN
Gilbert C. MORRISON, SA, USN
Herbert NEEDHAM, CS2, USN
Roy E. F., NELSON, FN, USN
Chester A. NEWMAN, Jr., FN, USN
Michael E. NOECKER, FA, USN
Roscoe NOIDON, Jr., PN3, USN
Vance A. OVERBAY, Jr., FA, USN
Arthur M. OVERTON, EN2, USN
Robert C. OWENS, SN, USN
Anthony PADDEN, PCSA, USN
John A. PAGE, SFP2, USN
Jackie L. PALMER, SH3, USN
Robert Everard PANTIN, FN, USN
William R. PAVLIK, SA, USN
Robert E. PEYTON, SM3, USN
Donald J. PFLIPSEN, SK3, USN
James T. PHILAGE, FA, USN
Elwood H. PHILLIPS, SH1, USN
Ronald A. PORTER, SA, USN
Nick POSIOWAYCH, SA, USN
Leslie Neal POWELL, SA, USN
Charles D. QUINN, BM2, USN
Wayne C. QUINN, RMSN, USN
Ronald R. RASH, BM3, USN
Thomas C. RAFFERTY, SFFN, USN
Charley E. RAY, EN3, USN
George ROBERTS, GM1, USN
Andrew A. ROBISON, EN1, USN
Alejo RODRIGUEZ, SN, USN
Richard C. RUBCZYNSKI, HM1, USN
Eligio D. SALAMERO, TA, USN
Gary F. SCHIMMOELLER, SN, USN
Frederick H. SCHNEIDER, Jr., SA, USN
Richard H. SHANNON, SK2, USN
Timothy F. SHEAHAN, SA, USN
Wallace E. SHIVER, MM1, USN
Robert E. SHUGRUE, SN, USN
William John SIGMUND, RD2-P1, USN
Stewart SIEGFRIED, BM3, USN
Walter J. SIEMION, FA, USN
William D. SINCLAIR, ETNSN, USN
Calvin C. SLADE, RM2-P1, USN
James M. SMITH, BM1, USN
Ova L. SMITH, RM2-P1, USN
Luther J. STANLEY, SFM2, USN
William J. ST CLAIR, SN, USN
Phillip R. STEPHAN, RD3, USN
Dennis J. STEVENS, SA, USN
Gaylon C. STEVENS, SN, USN
Fred N. SULLIVAN, SA, USN
William J. TATE, SA, USN
Levi TAYLOR, SN, USN
Ronald A. TAYLOR, SA, USN
Daniel L. TEETER, FA, USN
Michael G. THIELEN, BM3, USN
Donald E. THOMPSON, SN, USN
William B. THORN, FA, USN
John T. TOOMEY, SA, USN
Robert B. TRAVIS, SA, USN
James A. TUCKER, BM3, USN
Anthony J. TURON, RM3, USN
Jerry A. TWENTER, SN, USN
Virgil L. VARNER, SN, USN
Lawrence C. VENABLE, SN, USN
Lee R. VINEY, CS2, USN
Jacob A. WALLACE, MM1, USN
John E. WEBB, BM2, USN
Robert P. WEIDMANN, ICFN, USN
George A. WEISENBAUGH, FA, USN
Enoch T. WHITE, III, SN, USN
William R. WHITE, EN2-P1, USN
Walter Bryant WHITFIELD, Jr., RDSN, USN
Thomas W. WHITWORTH, BM3, USN
William H. WOCKENFUSS, FTA3, USN
Bobby C. WRIGHT, BM3, USN
Joe N. WYLIE, BM3, USN
Harold J. YOUNG, BM3, USN

VANGUARD IN PEACE ...



... SPEARHEAD IN WAR

Uniform:

The uniform prescribed for officers participating in the Ceremony will be Full Dress Blue Bravo. Navy guests may wear Service Dress Blue Bravo. Other military guests may wear appropriate winter uniform.
