

Kearse

Vol. 1 No. 2

9 March 1946



Admiral Kingcaid, Commander Eastern Sea Frontier, Presenting Awards To Kearsarge Members.

Four members of the Kearsarge were given special honors by their country at the commissioning ceremony last Saturday.

Commander J.W. Byng, USN our executive officer, received two Air Medals, awarded as the result of wartime service. The first of these was for Meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as Senior Naval Aviator in charge of a section of PBV-5 aircraft transporting a United States Army-United States Marine Corps Commission from Argentina, Newfoundland to Reykjavik, Iceland to Floyd Bennette Field New York during the period 11/14 June 1941. These flights were in connection with the

occupation of Iceland by the forces of the United States.

The second Air Medal was received by Commander Byng, for meritorious achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a United States Navy patrol Bomber engaged in escort and search patrols in the North Atlantic area during the winter of 1941-42.

Lieutenant(jg) Leland Norton USN, and Orville G. Neal, S1c of V-6 division, shared in the honor of the presentation of a presidential citation awarded as the result of their heroic service with task unit 77.4.3 during the Battle off Somoar, Philippines, October 25, 1944. The details of this famous naval conflict are known to students of World War 2 Naval

History. The action took place at dawn when our force was hemmed in on three sides by overwhelmingly superior forces of the Japanese fleet. Heroism was the order of the day, with aircraft making dry runs, destroyers going down under enemy gunfire during courageous point-blank torpedo attacks in the face of certain destruction. In spite of terrific loss this task force did its duty forcing the retirement of a hostile force threatening invasion at Leyte.

CGM Raymond L. Parker, also received his country's gratitude in the presentation of an Air Medal, for meritorious achievement in a flight over the Bismark Sea on the night of 15-16 Jan. 1944.

INTRODUCING



Commander R. E. Coombs the Air Officer of the U.S.S. Kearsarge, born in West Dummerston, Vt., 24 November 1908, was educated in the public school system of Brattleboro, Vermont. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, class of 1932.

His first duty was aboard the U.S.S. New York, 1932-1935. He then went to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, under instruction to become a naval aviator, being stationed there until 1936. He then went aboard the U.S.S. Nevada as VO aviator from 1936 to 1939. He served in VP 9 from 1938 to 1939 and then was sent back to Pensacola as an instructor until 1941. For two years he served on the staff of Fleet Air Wing One as Communication and later Operations officer. From 1943 to 1945 he served in the Bureau of Aeronautics, in Washington.

He holds the Pacific and American Theatres awards.

On 24 August 1936 Commander Coombs married the former Miss Frances Bennett. There are two children aged eight and one. The family resides in Mount Vernon, N.Y.



Commander R.S. Camera, USN, our navigator, is a native of Woodbury, New Jersey, having been born there 19 April 1909. He was graduated from Eastern High School in Washington, D. C. and attended the University of Maryland from 1928 to 1929 on June of 1928 he enlisted in the Navy and after preparatory school went on to graduation from the Naval Academy in 1933. After a year in civilian employment he returned to the Navy in 1934.

He first saw service aboard the famous U.S.S. Ranger, until 1936. Then he went to the Saratoga as CWO on staff ComAirBat. Then until June, 1937, he served aboard the U.S.S. Brazos in Baseforce. After training in Pensacola he went to VO-2 on the U.S.S. Oklahoma. In August, 1940 he joined VP51 at San Juan and flew the Neutrality Patrol in the Caribbean. Through the summer of 1941 he flew out of Argentina. Newfoundland in patrol mercy and survey flights.

Through most of 1924 he flew out of Iceland and in October went to Fleet Air Wing 12 at Key West as Gunnery and Tactics Officer. In December, 1945, he formed up under F.A.W. 5 and did important training work. In January, 1945 he transferred to F.A.W. 7 in England and served as Air Group Commander at N.A.F. Devon until July 1945.

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Commanding Officer
Captain Francis McKenna

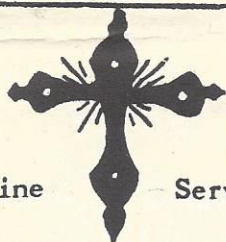
Executive Officer
Comdr. J. W. Byng,

Advisory Board
Comdr. Fr. Burke, CHC, USN
Lt(jg) G. M. Dougan
Lt(jg) A.H. Butz, CHC, Ed.

Contributors
S.P. Rizzo, S1c(prtr)
-Artist

J. Sheinkman, S1c
R.W. LeVine, S1c
Ed. Kuich S1c

Production
Kolegas, N.J. M3c
Harding, G.D. (Prtr) S2c
Duncan, J.A. Pho M2c
Haddy, J. S1c(PhoM)



Divine Services

On Hangar Deck Each
Sunday

Catholic.....0900
Protestant.....1000

Editorial

The growing stage of any organization, like any individual, has its trying moments. But when the period of growth has been accomplished, the pleasure of the results attained is ample reward. Our ship is now commissioned: we are out of detail stage, as our captain told us last Saturday afternoon. There are still shortages, breakdowns and elements of confusion with which to contend. This is to be and will be expected. But now we are on the way and time will see a smoothness of all operation. There are two ways of working our ship. The first is to simply do our duty. The second is by doing our duty plus - the little extra effort which always makes the difference between just doing the job and making the best possible task. You will make our Kearsarge the queen of the seas she ought to be. The shipyard workers made the ship, the taxpayers paid for it, it is our part to give her a spirit of pride and achievement.

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Commander Camera holds the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit. His family resides in Coronado, California. He has one daughter aged seven years.

Attention!!

The staff of the Kearsaga is now being formed. If you can write or edit come in and talk with the Chaplain in the crew's library. We shall be glad to have your contribution to the ship's paper. Have them in our hands by 1200 each Tuesday.

SPORTS

Now that the long-awaited day of commissioning is over, the tremendous task of getting our ship molded into a smooth-working unit is before us. All the plans and theories we worked out on paper the last few months are now beginning to materialize.

All departments are laying the basic framework for an efficiently working outfit. The athletic department, at the present time, is in the process of doing the same thing.

At present, the Athletic department is setting up its permanent Gear Storage Room and also two Gear Issue Rooms, one for flight deck and one for hangar deck activities. It must be remembered that athletic gear which is plentiful and in good shape plus the existence of good issue rooms are the core of a good shipboard program of athletics.

In addition to the above the athletic department is also engaged in assembling equipment and preparing hangar deck standards for various net games.

It is planned to maintain three rooms aft on the gallery deck for enlisted men and three rooms forward on the gallery deck for officers. As soon as equipment and rooms are ready, a memorandum with all necessary information for their use will be issued. In the meantime a little patience will be necessary.

COMMISSIONING DANCE

J G STRONG SR
1224 SCHOOL ROAD
BESSEMER AL 35023



COMMODORE HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM