

Public Information Section  
U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
British, American  
Press and Radio

BOARD OF ADMIRALTY TO GREET TWO AMERICAN WARSHIPS

The Board of Admiralty will pay tribute to two of America's warships from the Pacific Friday at Southampton, where the vessels are embarking troops in preparation for their inaugural voyages to the United States as "Magic Carpet" troop transports.

Honors will be accorded the 27,000-ton aircraft carrier, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE, holder of the U.S. Navy's most spectacular war record in the Pacific, and the U.S.S. WASHINGTON, 35,000-ton battleship which served with the Home Fleet in 1942 and later participated in many engagements in the Pacific.

Representatives of the Board of Admiralty who will board the ENTERPRISE at 11:30 a.m. Friday include the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Albert Victor Alexander; the First Sea Lord, Admiral Lord Cunningham, G.C.B., D.S.O., and the Fifth Sea Lord, Rear Admiral Thomas Hope Troubridge, G.B., D.S.O.

Other Royal Navy officers who will inspect the ships are: Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth; Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Blake, K.C.B., D.S.O., flag officer liaison with U.S. Naval Forces in Europe during the war; Rear Admiral Claud Barrington Barry, G.B., D.S.O., Naval Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty; Vice Admiral Sir Francis Thomas Butler Tower, K.B.E., G.B., Flag Officer in Command, Southampton, and Lieutenant Commander

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A.P. Moray, RNVR, Flag Lieutenant to the Board of Admiralty.

The Royal Navy party will be greeted aboard the ENTERPRISE by Admiral N. Kent Hewitt, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and Captain William L. Ross, USN, captain of the ship. Following a brief ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier, the party will go aboard the WASHINGTON, where Admiral Hewitt, Rear Admiral Thomas A. Cooley, USN, Commander, Battleship Division Six, whose flag is flying in the WASHINGTON; Captain \_\_\_\_\_, USN, Admiral Cooley's Chief of Staff, and Captain \_\_\_\_\_, USN, captain of the WASHINGTON, will be hosts to the Admiralty party at luncheon.

Among others attending the luncheon will be Mr. William Beck, U.S. Consul General, Southampton; Captain Robert Hickey, USN, Naval Air Attache, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe; Colonel S.L. Kiser, U.S. Army, 14th Port Commander, and Commander Owen Smyth, USNR, Naval Port Officer.

The First Lord of the Admiralty and the First Sea Lord are expected to speak before members of the crews of both the ENTERPRISE and WASHINGTON during their visits. Aboard the ENTERPRISE at the time will be 4,700 American troops who are being redeployed from Europe. The 1,592 troops scheduled for redeployment in the WASHINGTON will not be embarked before the official visit.

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The ENTERPRISE and WASHINGTON are among 15 American combatant ships being used as troop transports to redeploy American combat veterans from Europe. The "Magic Carpet" vessels, including one battleship, seven carriers, one escort carrier and six cruisers, will carry a total of 36,431 troops in a single trip. The ships are expected to complete four voyages by Feb. 1, returning a total of 145,724 U.S. troops to the States. Ports of Southampton, LeHarve and Naples are being used in the Navy's redeployment program. On the initial runs, only the ENTERPRISE and WASHINGTON are putting in at Southampton.

The ENTERPRISE, hailed as the U.S. Navy's most famous active ship, participated in 18 of 22 major engagements in the Pacific War, beginning at Pearl Harbor and ending at Okinawa. She covered 275,000 miles, destroyed 911 Jap planes, sank 71 ships and damaged or probably sank an additional 192 vessels.

The sixth U.S. Navy ship to bear her name, the ENTERPRISE was launched in 1936, commissioned in 1938 and spent her entire time since 1939 in the Pacific. The "Big E," as she is known, was damaged 15 times by enemy hits and near misses and was claimed by the enemy as "sunk" on six different occasions.

She is scheduled to become a naval relic at the completion of her present duty, joining the USS CONSTITUTION and HMS VICTORY in the Valhalla of great warships.

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The WASHINGTON, constructed at a cost of more than \$65,000,000, was commissioned in the spring of 1941 and after service with the Home Fleet participated in major engagements in the Pacific, where she scored some remarkable victories against Japanese forces.

The ENTERPRISE docked at Southampton shortly after noon Wednesday and was greeted by a Royal Navy band and cheering party. She will depart for the States at approximately 2 p.m. Friday. The WASHINGTON is scheduled to dock at Southampton at 2:30 p.m. Thursday and will depart for the States at approximately 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Liberty parties from both the ships are expected to visit London and other English cities during the stay. The traditional American Thanksgiving dinner will be served aboard both ships on Thursday.

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NOTE TO EDITORS FROM J.H. BRENNER, NEWS DIVISION, M. O. I.  
FOR U. S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE

Great Britain will pay tribute to the USS ENTERPRISE, famous aircraft carrier of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, at 11.30 a.m., Friday, November 23, when the First Lord of the Admiralty, the First Sea Lord and Fifth Sea Lord, representing the Board of Admiralty, go aboard the ship at Southampton on an official visit.

The ENTERPRISE, known as the "fightingest carrier in the U.S. Navy," is putting in to Southampton as part of the "Magic Carpet" Operation of the U.S. Navy in redeploying American troops now in Europe. When the Board of Admiralty representatives come aboard the ENTERPRISE, more than 4,000 troops will have been embarked for the voyage back home. The ENTERPRISE is one of 15 U.S. Navy Combatant ships being used as troop transports in the Atlantic. The battleship WASHINGTON, once with the Home Fleet and also a veteran of Pacific action, will be in Southampton at the same time.

Press, radio and newsreels are invited to visit the ship and attend the Board of Admiralty ceremony. The press party will leave from in front of 28 Grosvenor Square at 7.30 a.m., Friday, November 23, in order to reach Southampton by about 10 a.m. The ENTERPRISE is departing on the afternoon tide shortly after the Board of Admiralty visit. The return trip to London will be made immediately after the ceremony.

It is requested that all correspondents desiring to make the trip notify this office NOT LATER than WEDNESDAY NOON, 21 NOVEMBER, in order that transportation arrangements can be made. Reservations may be made by telephone: MAYfair 9222, Ext. 299.

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