Monday Maritime Matters

Description

Place holder until the dust of getting the ValOUR-IT program moving.

I was planning on covering the USS HEERMAN (DD-532), but there isnâ€™t any easy answers on the â€˜net as to who she was named for.

Check back later today, and I should have some gouge up for Naval Historyâ€™s sake come early evening.

Itâ€™s laterâ€¦later than Iâ€™d like, but here it is:



Born in 1910 in Tacoma, Washington, Rear Admiral Robert Copeland, USNR, was one of many reservists who played a critical role in WWII. At the time he was needed to step up to the plate, he was a Lieutenant Commander.Ã, Enlisting in the Naval Reserves in 1929, he was commissioned in 1935, and served in a reserve status until he was called to active duty in 1940 as part of the military buildup. A lawyer by professional trade, he was a captain of a destroyer escort on Oct 25th, 1944, present at the Battle Off Samar. That ship has become a storied one: USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS (DE-413).



From James Hornfischerâ€™s excellent and throughly researched book, â€œLast Stand of the Tin Can Sailors:â€•

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> Ã¢â‚¬Å“This will be a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected. We will do what damage we can.Ã¢â‚¬Â•

LCDR Copeland said to his crew and then turned his ship into harmâ€™s way to face off against the most formidable Japanese fighting force to sail, as part of Taffy 3, he and his crewâ€™s actions are legendary and earned LCDR Copeland the Navy Cross. Taking three 14â€³ hits from Japanese battleship rounds, the ROBERTS was severely damaged. His gun crews continued firing, even without hydraulics and gas ejection air, expending almost every single 5â€³ round they carried, regardless of the type of projectile it was.

He wrote a book about his ship, â€œThe Spirit of the Sammie B,â€• along with his shipmate, Jack Oâ€™Neill.

After the war, Robert Copeland returned to his legal profession, but also remained in the Naval Reserves, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. He passed away in 1973, in the same city where he was born.



One ship has served the US Navy named for RADM Copeland: USS COPELAND (FFG-25) of the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY Class of guided missile frigates.

Built by the Todd Shipyard at San Pedro, CA and commissioned August 7th, 1982. I helped train her combat systems team during their pre-comm training at Fleet Combat Training Center, Atlantic.Ã, She was homeported in San Diego for her entire service time. Decommissioned September 18th, 1996, she was immediately transferred to the Egyptian Navy, renamed *Mubarak (F 911)*.

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