

Only Weather Will Delay Atom Test Next Week

"Joint Task Force One . . .
Proceed to Rendezvous . . ."

For weeks, units of the Target Fleet of Operation "Crossroads," including the nine pictured below, have been gathering near the scene of the first atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll, tiny islet in the Marshall Island group. Last-minute preparations are being made for the huge experiment which is expected to take place next Monday, July 1, providing the weather is favorable.

More than 37,000 Army and Navy personnel will participate in the tests as well as the 97 different types of Naval vessels that comprise the target unit.

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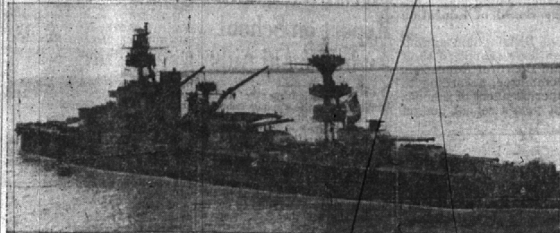
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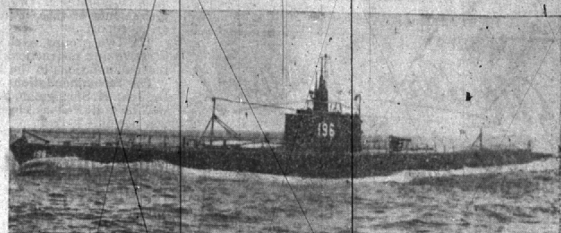
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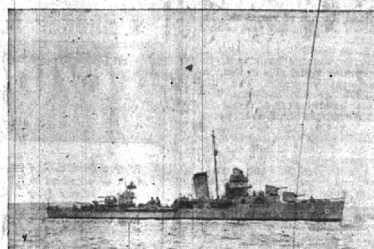
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

Second ex-Flagship of the four United States battleships in the target unit, the USS Arkansas, oldest battleship in the Navy, has served for 84 years. She has carried two presidents and one congressional committee as passengers during peacetime, and been in action in both wars. In the second World War, the veteran ship served as a convoy escort, and bombarded the shores of Normandy, Southern France, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa in pre-invasion actions.



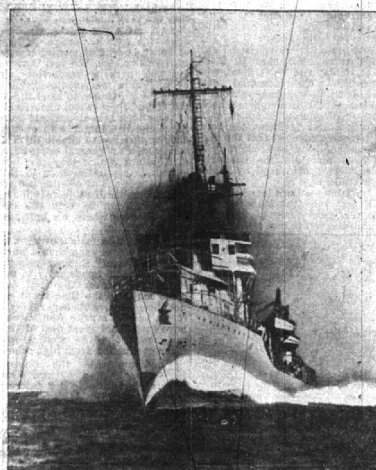
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

At Cavite, P.I., when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor, the submarine USS Scaraven completed 13 war patrols, sank an estimated 66,000 tons of Jap shipping, and damaged an additional 10,000. The veteran submarine also participated in numerous rescues at sea.



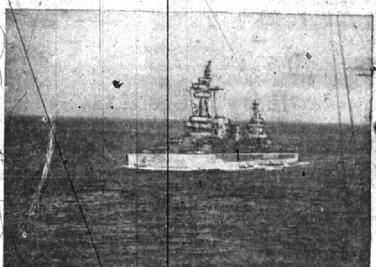
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

Sub-hunter USS Stack, a destroyer of the McCall class of 1939, fought in both Atlantic and Pacific waters, operating against German and Jap submarines. The vessel participated in the Battle of Vella Gulf, the occupation of the Marshalls, and the assaults on New Guinea, Leyte, Lingaen Gulf, and Okinawa.



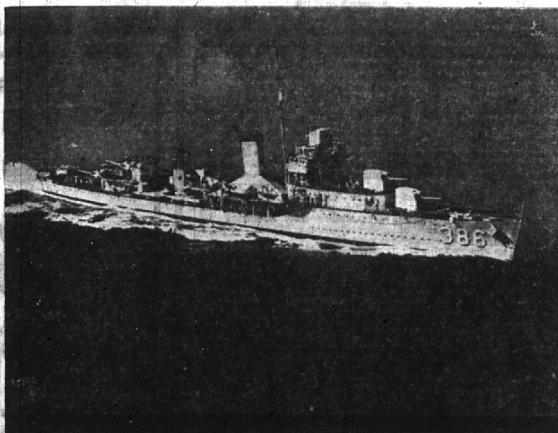
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

Every major battle fought in the Southwest Pacific area found the destroyer USS Flusser there. The Flusser was operating with the Lexington task force out of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and after that participated in 11 engagements in the area.



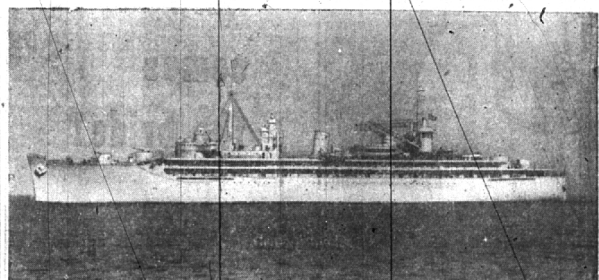
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

The ship that has been host to more royalty than any other, the battleship USS New York, is the fourth of four U.S. battleships in the target unit. The New York, which served as flagship of Battle Squadron Six with the British Grand Fleet in the North Sea during World War One, has played host to King George V, the Prince of Wales, and the now-Emperor of Japan. In World War Two, she supported the North African landings, did convoy duty, and took part in the pre-invasion shelling of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific.



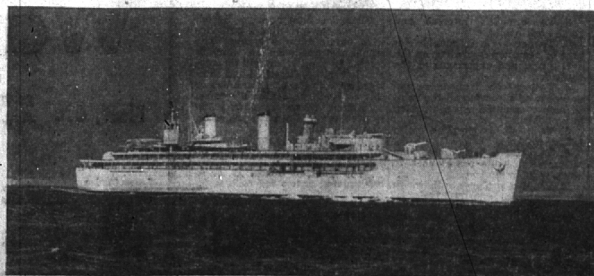
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

Through every important action in the Southwest and Central Pacific, the destroyer USS Bagley fought. At Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the Bagley shot down five enemy planes, and then went on to win eight engagement stars, down six more enemy planes, and rescue 465 survivors of the First Battle of Savo Island. The vessel ended her war career as Rear Admiral M. Matsubara of the Japanese Imperial Navy stoned the surrender of Marcus Island aboard her.



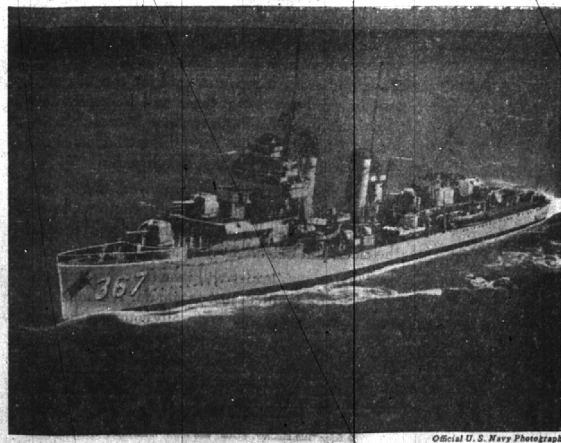
Official U. S. Navy Photograph

DESTROYER-tender, the USS Dixie, will service and repair the destroyers of the support unit and the target fleet. Throughout the war, the destroyer-tenders operated in the war zones on all seas, repairing the destroyers. These tenders made it possible for many of the fast little craft, to remain in the war zones continuously, repairing and servicing them on the high seas, under the very noses of the enemy.



Official U. S. Navy Photograph

SURVEYOR of the waters of Bikini Atoll will be the survey ship USS Bowditch. The Bowditch is equipped with all modern gear to completely survey the waters of the lagoon where the target fleet will be anchored. Throughout the war, survey ships operated in the forward areas, surveying the captured harbors, many times while the battle was still going on. The Bowditch will not only survey the waters previous to the test, but will check the underwater disturbances and results of the atom bomb blast.



Official U. S. Navy Photograph

The 10-year old destroyer USS Lamson fought through Pearl Harbor to the landings at Ormoc Bay, Leyte, before suffering any crippling damage. When war came, the vessel was with a task force west off Hawaii, and from that time on operated in the Pacific area. She was first damaged in the Cape Gloucester landings in 1943. In December, 1944, the veteran destroyer was supporting the Ormoc Bay landings when a Kamikaze struck her stack and exploded. Although apparently "done for," the Lamson was saved to participate in the latter part of the Iwo Jima campaign.