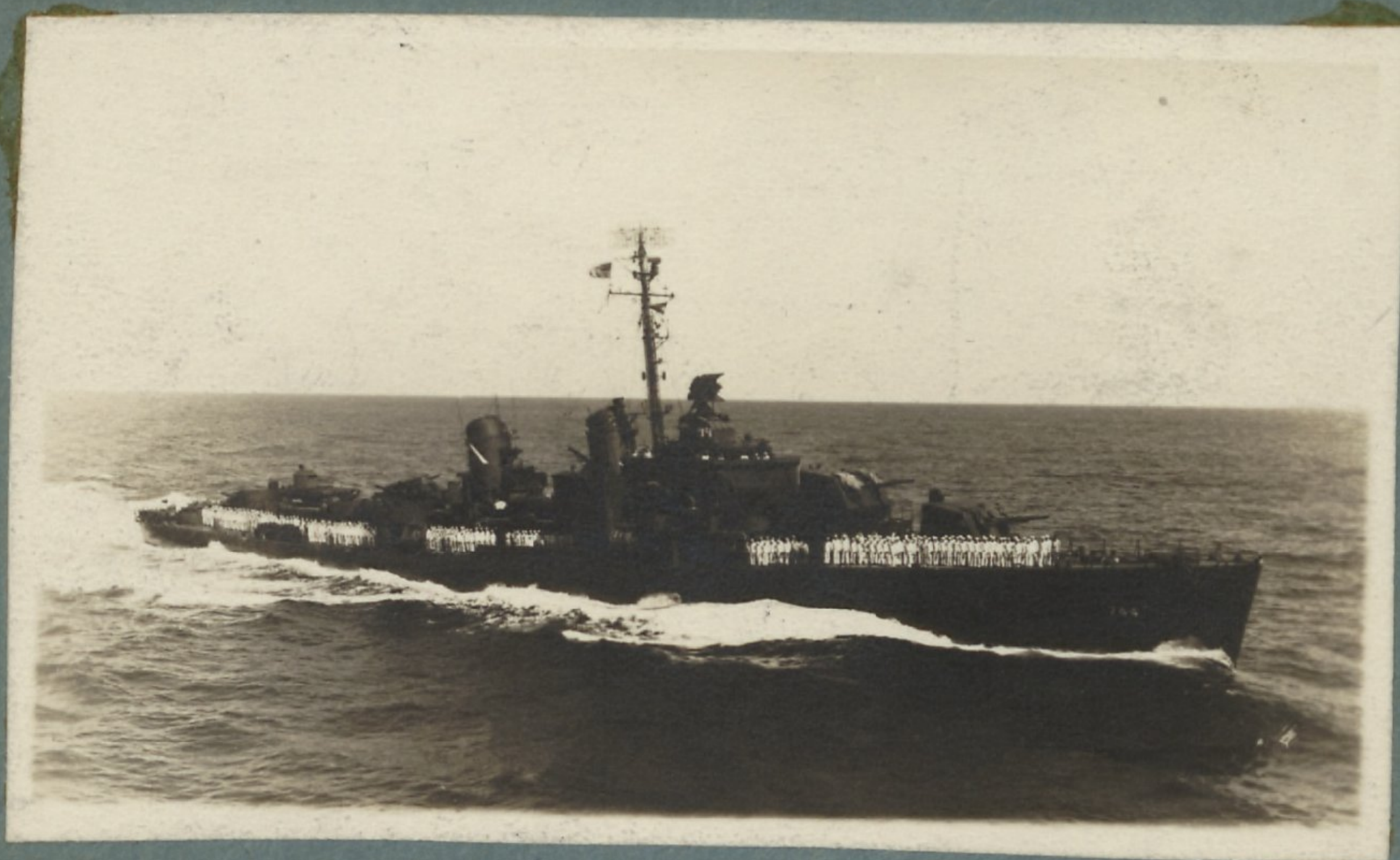


NAVY DAY

OCTOBER 27, 1945



U.S.S. BLUE

SOUVENIR WAR RECORD

THIRD FLEET

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

- GREETINGS FROM THE CAPTAIN -

This is the first opportunity The Navy has had to show its newest type Destroyer to The American people - entirely planned and built during the war. The Navy is proud of the record of its latest Destroyer Class ships. I welcome you aboard The U.S.S. BLUE.

CMDR. L. A. BRYAN, USN
COMMANDING

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The U.S.S. BLUE was launched November 30, 1943, at the Bethlehem Steel Shipbuilding Yard, Staten Island, New York, and named in honor of the destroyer BLUE which had been sunk in the battle for the Solomon Islands. First of the 2200-ton "Super-destroyers" to enter the war in the Pacific, The BLUE joined the Third Fleet in August, 1944, and served continuously throughout the campaigns for Palau, The Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Japan with Admiral Spruance's famed TASK FORCE 58 and Admiral Halsey's TASK FORCE 38. Composed of the Navy's fastest and latest aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, the

fast carrier task force was the advance striking force which swept the Japanese Navy from the sea, and knocked out the aggressive Jap airforce so that troops could be landed on enemy-held island bases. As the force approached the Jap home-land, "Kamikaze" suicidal attacks by enemy pilots became intense, and the BLUE was credited with shooting down four planes attacking the carriers of the task force.

A veteran of three typhoons in the West Pacific, Philippine and South China seas, the BLUE steamed 150,000 miles in the forward battle area without returning for navy yard repairs, and triumphantly entered Tokyo Bay, anchoring 1000 yards from the U.S.S. MISSOURI, where the historic surrender was signed on September 2, 1945.

Painted above the bridge are the 4 planes which were shot down at Okinawa and Kyushu, Japan; three merchant vessels destroyed in a spectacular torpedo attacks made by the BLUE'S squadron in Tokyo Bay on July 22, 1945; two island bombardments - Okino Deito Jima and Minami Deito Jima, two Jap islands between Okinawa and the homeland. The 18 "hash-marks" below the insignia of the navy pilot represents pilots and aircrewmembers rescued by the BLUE following plane crashes at sea. Nine mines were detonated in one operation alone. The submarine, which surrendered at sea off the coast of Honshu when overtaken by The Blue on August 27, 1945, was the world's largest underseas craft, weighing 5700 tons.

