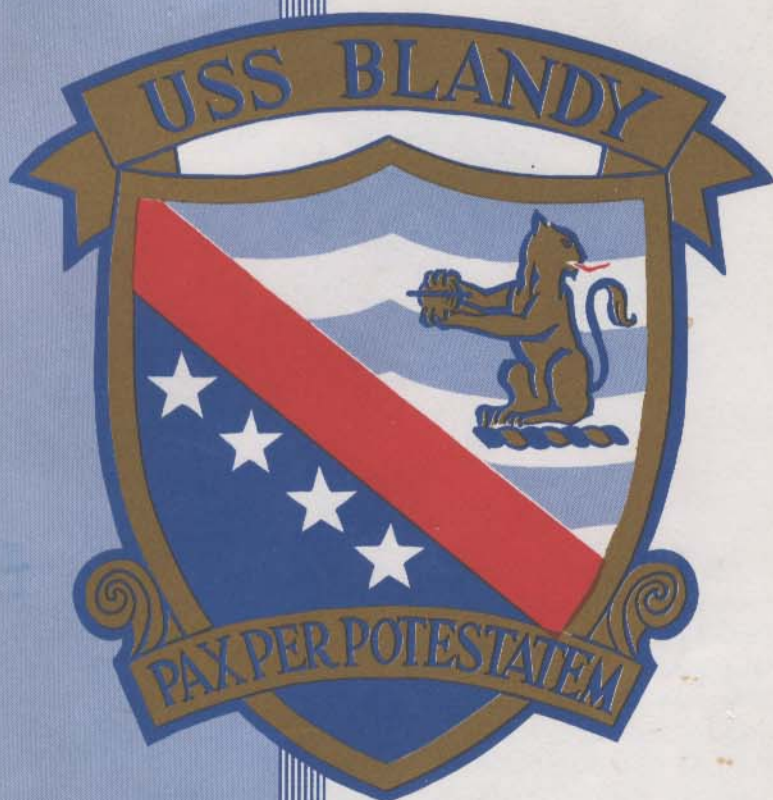


COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



PHILADELPHIA
NAVAL BASE
2 MAY 1970

COMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship into the operating forces of the United States Navy. Two major steps will be taken during the ceremony today. First, the ship is delivered to the Commandant of the Fourth Naval District, Rear Admiral Kenneth L. Veth. Admiral Veth will read the orders to place the *BLANDY* in commission. The Admiral will then deliver the ship to the Commanding Officer, Commander Christopher S. Lardis and order him to conduct the ceremony to place the ship in commission. Commander Lardis will order the national ensign to be raised and the commissioning pennant to be broken. At that moment, *BLANDY* will become the UNITED STATES SHIP *BLANDY* and Commander Lardis, together with the ship's officers and men, assumes the responsibility to ensure the ship's readiness for any service required by our nation.



THE COMMISSION PENNANT

The commission pennant has for centuries been the symbol of a man-of-war. It is said that when the Dutch Admiral Van Tromp defeated an English fleet in 1652, he cruised with a broom at his masthead to signify that he had swept his enemies from the sea. When the positions were reversed in the following year, the British admiral hoisted a long streamer from his masthead to represent the lash of a whip indicating that he had whipped his adversary. Thus, the narrow "coachwhip" pennant has become the distinctive mark of a ship of war.

Today, when the order to commission the ship is given, the commission pennant will be hoisted at the gaff, which is located high on the forward mast. It will fly day and night, and will be hauled down only to display the personal flag of another officer of higher rank than the Commanding Officer when embarked in the ship.



UNITED STATES SHIP

BLANDY

DESTROYER
NINE-FORTY-THREE



Built by
BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS



Converted by
PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



KEEL LAID 29 DECEMBER 1955
LAUNCHED 19 DECEMBER 1956
COMMISSIONED 26 NOVEMBER 1957
DECOMMISSIONED 15 JANUARY 1969
RECOMMISSIONED 2 MAY 1970



SPONSOR AT LAUNCHING
MRS. JOHN M. LEE



ADMIRAL THOMAS H. MOORER
Chief of Naval Operations



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

1 May 1970

Dear Captain,

My sincere best wishes go to you and to your crew on the recommissioning of BLANDY (DD-943).

From her first commissioning in 1957, BLANDY played a leading role in the work of our modern Navy. In the Atlantic and Mediterranean she displayed that combination of proud proficiency and "can do" spirit that has ever been the hallmark of the true destroyerman. Honored for battle efficiency and for her high level of expertise in antisubmarine operations, BLANDY has been called on to do many jobs. She has done all of them well. Whether operating with the navies of our NATO allies, participating in the Gemini space program, or holding the line during the Cuban quarantine of 1962, she has amply demonstrated her mettle. Before beginning modernization, she again proved her worth by earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation for effective fire support and shore bombardment work along the coast of Vietnam.

In war as in peace, BLANDY has set a standard for others. It is for you, and every man who sails in BLANDY, to carry it on and add new honor to it. Fleet Admiral King reminded us that "machines are as nothing without the men who man them and give them life." I know that your devoted leadership, with that of your officers and petty officers, will reflect the high trust you have received.

On behalf of the Navy, I welcome BLANDY once more to the fleet. May the best of good fortune be yours.

Sincerely,

T. H. MOORER
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander Christopher S. Lardis, USN
PCO, BLANDY (DD-943)
Philadelphia Naval Shipyard
Philadelphia, Pa. 19112



REAR ADMIRAL J. NEVIN SHAFFER
Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Atlantic



COMMANDER CRUISER-DESTROYER FORCE
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

1 May 1970

Dear Commander Lardis,

My sincere best wishes go to you and your crew on the recommissioning of the USS BLANDY (DD 943). May the voyage ahead be most rewarding and challenging.

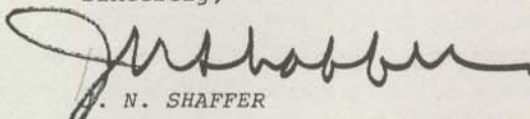
BLANDY's commissioning again brings to the Fleet a powerful instrument of national defense. The improvements in the equipment now installed in BLANDY will enable her to take her place once again in the modern, changing Navy of today and to effectively counter one of the most pressing threats to this Nation's fleet, the submarine.

I feel confident that BLANDY's splendid past record will manifest itself in such a manner in the "new" BLANDY to make her worthy of her namesake, Admiral H. P. Blandy.

I am certain that your leadership and devotion, and that of your officers and men will enable you to develop that effective teamwork so necessary in a unit in our country's first line of defense. The great trust you have received in this assignment reflects both my own, and the Navy's confidence in your ability to manage the modern man of war and to ensure BLANDY once again takes her rightful place as a front-runner in the race for unit excellence in the Atlantic Fleet.

On behalf of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force, I welcome BLANDY back to the Atlantic Fleet. May she ever enjoy the best of good fortune.

Sincerely,



J. N. SHAFFER
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander Christopher S. Lardis, U.S. Navy
Prospective Commanding Officer
U.S.S. BLANDY (DD 943)
Philadelphia Naval Shipyard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER



R. LAWRENCE COUGHLIN
Representative, Thirteenth District, Pennsylvania

Lawrence Coughlin was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on April 11, 1929, son of the former Evelyn Wich and the late R. Lawrence Coughlin, who served as Luzerne County Solicitor for many years.

While attending Yale University, Coughlin enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. On making his decision to follow a career in government during summer training, Coughlin returned to Yale, changed his Engineering major to Economics and Political Science, and was graduated with an A. B. in 1950. He was studying Business Administration at Harvard Business School when the Korean Conflict erupted. Called to active duty, Coughlin served as a staff member and aide-de-camp to General L. B. "Chesty" Puller at Camp Pendleton, California and at the Troop Training Unit, Coronado, California. He was on active duty for more than two years and was discharged with the rank of Captain. He returned to Harvard Business School and received his Master's Degree in 1954.