

# Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

## *U.S.S. Antietam*

by Mike Prero

**USS *Antietam* (CV/CVA/CVS-36)** was one of 24 *Essex*-class aircraft carriers built during and shortly after World War II for the United States Navy. The ship was the second US Navy ship to bear the name, and was named for the American Civil War Battle of Antietam (Maryland). *Antietam* was commissioned in January 1945, too late to actively serve in World War II.

The aircraft carrier completed fitting out at Philadelphia until 2 March, when she got underway for her shakedown cruise. The ship arrived in Hampton Roads on 5 March and conducted operations from Norfolk until 22 March, when she stood out of Chesapeake Bay bound for Trinidad in the British West Indies. At the conclusion of her shakedown cruise, *Antietam* returned to Philadelphia on 28 April to begin post-shakedown availability. After a three-day stop at Norfolk, the warship resumed her voyage to the Panama Canal, and continued her voyage up the coast to San Diego. *Antietam* arrived in Pearl Harbor on 19 June and remained in the Hawaiian Islands conducting training missions until 12 August. On that day, she headed for the western Pacific, but three days out of Oahu, she received word of the Japanese capitulation and the consequent cessation of hostilities. Thus, her mission changed from combat to occupation support duty. On 21 August, she was bound for Japan. En route, she suffered some internal damage which forced her into port at Apra Harbor, Guam, for inspections. Resuming her course on 27 August, her destination had been changed to the coast of the Asian mainland.

The aircraft carrier remained in the Far East for a little more than three years. The Yellow Sea constituted her primary theater of operations while her air group provided support for the Allied occupation of North China, Manchuria, and Korea. During the latter stages of that assignment, her airmen conducted surveillance missions in that area as a result of the civil war in China between communist and nationalist factions which later resulted in the expulsion of Chiang Kai-shek's forces from mainland China and the establishment of Mao Zedong's communist People's Republic of China. Early in 1949, she concluded her mission in the Orient and headed back to the United States for deactivation. She was decommissioned on 21 June 1949.

In 1949, *Antietam* was used in the filming of the movie [\*Task Force\*](#), starring [\*Gary Cooper\*](#).

[[http://em.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Antietam\\_\(CV36\)](http://em.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Antietam_(CV36))]

