



RECOMMISSIONING  
OF THE

U.S.S. RUDDY (AM-380)

U.S.S. SURFBIRD (AM-383)

12 MARCH 1952

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO GROUP, PACIFIC RESERVE FLEET

Captain E. P. ABBEY, U.S. NAVY  
COMMANDING

COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

1. Invocation by Navy Chaplain, L. M. LINDQVIST, LCDR, CHC, U.S. Navy
2. Captain E. P. ABBENEHY, U.S. Navy introduces Captain Hunter Wood, Jr., Commander, Fleet Training Group & Underway Training Element, Fleet Sonar School
3. Address by Captain Hunter Wood, Jr.
4. Commissioning party proceed to ships where Commander P. J. NELECK, U.S. Navy, Commander Sub Group ONE, San Diego Group, delivers ships to Commanding Officers.

U.S.S. RUDDY (AM-380)  
Lieutenant Commander E. A. BROWN, U.S. Navy

The USS RUDDY (AM-380) was constructed by Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation of Chickasaw, Alabama, was preliminarily accepted and first commissioned 28 April 1945 with LCDR W. H. ROTHZEL, USNA assuming command after receiving the ship from LCDR H.P. MICHEALS, USNA, Commandant EIGHTH Naval District.

On 15 May, RUDDY got underway for Little Creek for shakedown training under Minecraft Shakedown Group in the Chesapeake Bay area. 26 July shakedown training having been completed and Navy Yard availability at the Norfolk Navy Yard concluded, RUDDY shoved off for the Pacific with stops at San Pedro, Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Okinawa and Sasebo. The hazardous duty of sweeping Japanese moored mines commenced on 27 September. Successfully completing this duty on 17 November, RUDDY commenced courier service to Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Wakayama and returned to Sasebo. Next a period of supervising Japanese sweeping operations followed and 1 January 1946 found the RUDDY sweeping a minefield just south of Kobeshima, Kyushu, Japan.

On 17 February 1946, RUDDY was ordered to Continental United States, stopping at Kobe, Saipan, Eniwetok, Bikini, Johnston and Pearl Harbor enroute. While in Bikini lagoon Dan buoys were planted in preparation for atomic bomb tests and while at Johnston RUDDY evacuated 41 men from the island as a precautionary measure due to a tidal wave warning.

The RUDDY reported to the Pacific Reserve Fleet and commenced inactivation at the U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, California on 25 April 1946 and was placed out of commission in reserve, 15 January 1947.

U.S.S. SURFBIRD (AM-383)  
Lieutenant Commander S. R. WALLERSTATT, U.S. Naval Reserve

The USS SURFBIRD (AM-383) was built by the American Shipbuilding Company at Lorain, Ohio. The keel was laid February 15, 1944. She was launched on 31 August 1944 and first commissioned on 25 November 1944. She is a 220 Ft. minesweeper of the Auk Class, diesel electric powered, displacing 1100 tons. In addition to her primary function as a minesweeper the SURFBIRD is also equipped to serve in a secondary capacity as an escort vessel.

Leaving San Diego on Wednesday, the SURFBIRD headed west, stopping at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Guam and Ulithi. July & August saw her taking part in the East China Sea sweep, the biggest single sweep operation of the Pacific war. On 7 July she swept her first mine. When the war ended nearly two months later, there were thirty-three mines to her credit.

SURFBIRD participated in the clearance sweep of the waters off the Chusan Archipelago, made particularly hazardous by the muddy currents of the Yangtze River. During a long and grueling period of nearly forty continuous days of sweeping, sixty-two more mines were added to her total.

The end of the year found the SURFBIRD at Sasebo resting on her laurels. Less than one third of her original crew were still aboard. Those who had served with her have earned one battle star on their Pacific Theatre ribbon and a recommendation for another for participating in the East China Sea sweep. The Chusan Archipelago operation merited a recommendation for the Navy Unit Commendation. The yellow Japanese mine pointed on the forward stack, a "99" inscribed on it, attested to service "well done".

5 June 1946 saw the commissioning pennant hoisted and placed out of commission at USNS, San Diego, California.



The officers from left-to-right are LCDR Wallerstedt, CO; LTJG Knetz, Gunnery Officer; LTJG Lefler, Eng. Officer; LTJG Loh; LTJG Littleton; Chief Langston, Chief Warrant Bos'n.  
The family left to right are Mrs. Wallerstedt (CO's wife), unknown lady, the CO's daughter, unknown lady, the CO's mother, the little boy is the CO's son.

