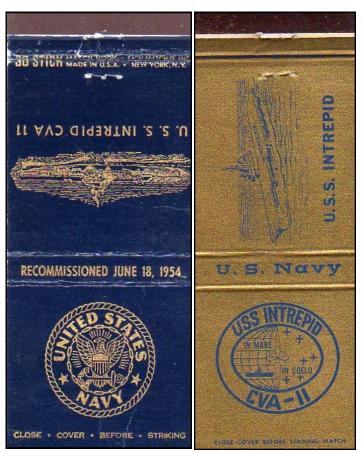
Great Ships of The U.S. Navy

U.S.S. Intrepid

The fourth *Intrepid* (CV-11) was launched 26 April 1943, by Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.; sponsored by Mrs. John Howard Hoover; and commissioned 16 August, Captain Thomas L. Sprague in command. She arrived at Pearl Harbor 10 Jan. 1944 and sortied with carriers *Cabot* and *Essex* to raid islands in the Kwajalein Atoll, destroying all of the 83 Japanese planes on Roi and Namur.

Intrepid then headed for Truk. Three carrier groups arrived on the 17th, sinking two destroyers and 200,000 tons of merchant shipping in 2 days. On 17 Feb. 1944, an aerial torpedo struck Intrepid's starboard quarter, flooding several compartments and jamming her rudder. Two days later, strong winds pointed her toward Tokyo! The crew fashioned a jury-rig sail of hatch covers and scrap canvas which swung Intrepid about and held her on course. Decorated by her crazy-quilt sail, Intrepid stood into Pearl on 24 Feb.1944. After repairs, Intrepid's planes struck Japanese positions in the Palaus 6-7 Sep. Her fast carrier task force then struck airfields on Mindanao 9-10 Sep. She struck throughout the Philippines, also pounding Okinawa and Formosa. On 24 Oct., an Intrepid plane spotted Admiral Kurita's flagship, Yamato. Planes from Intrepid and Cabot begin a day-long attack until the mighty battleship Musashi with her mammoth 18-inch guns had been sunk and her sister ship Yamato damaged, along with battleships Nagato and Haruna.

That night, Admiral Halsey's 3d Fleet raced north to intercept Japan's Northern Force off Luzon. One of *Intrepid*'s planes got a bomb into into the carrier *Zuiho* to begin the harvest. Then American bombers sank her sister ship *Chitosi*, and a plane from either *Intrepid* or *San Jacinto* scored with a torpedo in the carrier *Zuikaku*. Destroyer *Ayitsuki* also went to the bottom. After five more strikes, Japan had lost four carriers and a destroyer. As *Intrepid's* planes hit Clark Field 30 Oct., a burning kamikaze crashed into the carrier, killing 10 and wounding 6. She attacked



Kyushu, Japan, on 13 March 1945. *Intrepid*'s planes eventually joined attacks on the Japanese fleet anchored at Kure, damaging 18 enemy naval vessels, including super battleship *Yamato* and carrier *Amagi*.

On 16 April, a Japanese plane dove into *Intrepid's* flight deck, killing 8 and wounding 21.The next day, *Intrepid* retired for repairs and later supported the occupation of Japan. *Intrepid* was decommissioned 22 March 1947 but was converted into a modern attack aircraft carrier and reclassified as CVA-11 on 1 Oct. 1954.

She went on to serve in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Caribbean. On 8 Dec. 1961, she was reclassified to an antisubmarine warfare support carrier, CVS-11. *Intrepid* was selected as the principal recovery ship for Astronaut Scott Carpenter and his Mercury space capsule in 1962 and played a vital role in NASA's first manned Gemini flight in 1965. After a major overhaul in 1965-66, she was in Vietnam for seven months.

[Note: I've been searching off and on for the last several months as to the Intrepid's current status...anyone know?]