



## 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 *Chitose*, 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?]

