

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983)  
PRECOM DETAIL FLEET TRAINING CENTER  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

8 Feb 1979

Dear

*Mr. Flournoy:*

Congratulations on your selection to a most challenging and satisfying billet as a member of the pre-commissioning crew of the USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983). Your selection as a pre-commissioning crew member indicates that you have exhibited professionalism and abilities well above average. I am sure you will find it very satisfying to be associated with an entire crew as professional and highly motivated as yourself.

The challenge of the pre-commissioning crew is to mold the new ship into a completely operational fighting unit ready for sea in all respects upon commissioning. The accomplishment of this task will require a great deal of dedication and hard work from each member of the crew. The rewards for successfully completing this task is the self satisfaction and pride in the knowledge that you are a "Plank Owner" in the finest ship afloat, the USS JOHN RODGERS!

The ship is currently nearing the completion of its construction by Litton in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The expected commissioning date is 21 July 1979. Upon commissioning, the ship will be homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. The crew is being formed up at Fleet Training Center at the Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. We have offices located in Building L-28, where we are coordinating the crew training, to ensure that each man receives the training he will need to accomplish his job onboard. In addition, we are preparing all the instructions and operational procedure manuals for the ship. In May, we will begin sending crew members to the ship in Pascagoula to continue their training in the ship and to check out the installed equipment. By late June, we should have completed all training at Norfolk and have the entire crew in Pascagoula for shipboard training and final equipment tests, in preparation for commissioning. The exact time that each crewmember goes to Pascagoula will depend on his rate, and when the equipment for which he is responsible is installed in the ship.

To assist you in your move from your present duty station to Charleston, an information packet on the Charleston area will either be enclosed with this letter or sent to you shortly. If you do not receive this packet shortly, please contact our administration office at the address given below and we will get one to you. We are also enclosing the waiting time for various types of housing in Charleston. If you are not currently in Naval Housing, you may apply for housing at Charleston and be placed on the waiting list.

Once again, let me congratulate you and welcome you to the crew of the JOHN RODGERS and I am looking forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

*L. C. Dearth*

LAWRENCE C. DEARTH  
LCDR USN  
Executive Officer  
USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983)  
c/o Fleet Training Center  
Norfolk, VA 23511



UNITED STATES SHIP

# JOHN RODGERS

(DD 983)

COMMISSIONING

14 JULY 1979



## COMMISSIONING OF A NAVY SHIP

The commissioning ceremony marks the acceptance of a ship as a unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy. At the moment of breaking the commissioning pennant, USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983) becomes the responsibility of the Commanding Officer, who, together with the ship's officers and men, has the duty of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation in peace or war.

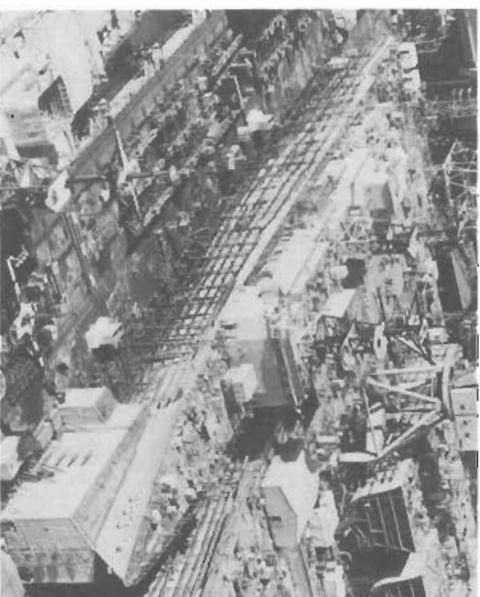
The commissioning pennant is believed to date from the 17th Century, when the Dutch were at war with the English. The Dutch Admiral Maarten Harpertszoon Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. This gesture was answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horsewhip, indicating his intention to subdue the Dutch. The English were victorious and ever since the narrow "coachwhip" pennant has been adopted by all nations as the distinctive mark of a ship of war.

The modern U.S. Navy Commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a union of seven white stars, and a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly. In lieu of a commissioning pennant, flagships fly Commodore's or Admiral's personal flags, hence the name flagship.

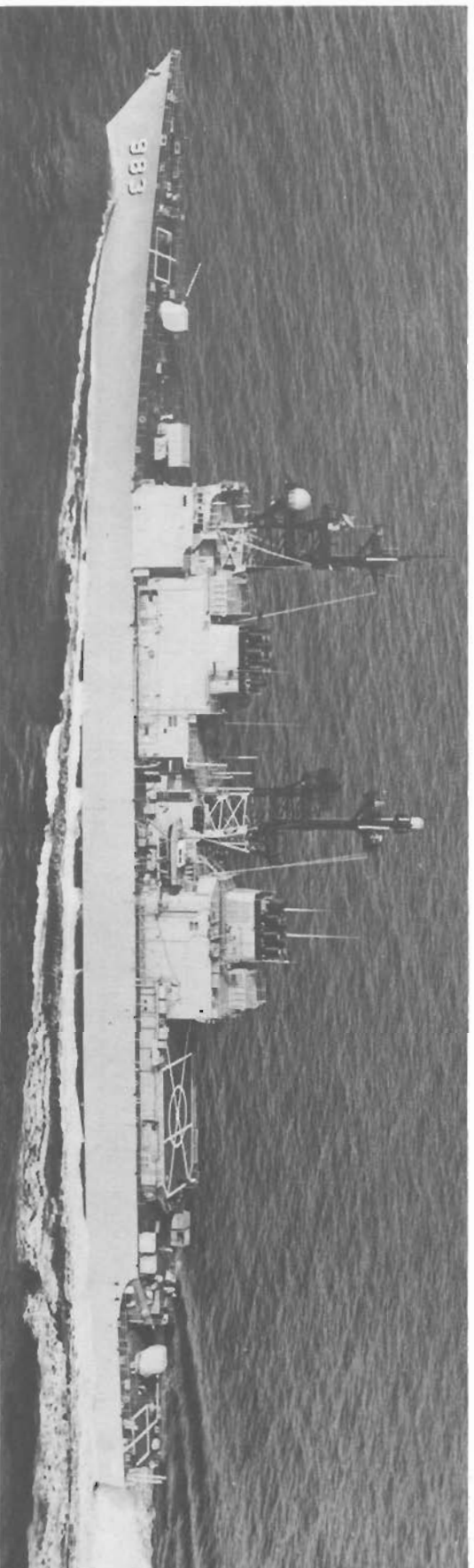
# THE PRESENT USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983)



THE KEEL LAYING



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



LAUNCHING



Built by.....Ingalls Shipbuilding  
 Division of  
 Litton Industries  
 Pascagoula, Ms.

Keel Laid ..... 12 AUG 1976

Christened ..... 18 MARCH 1978

Commissioned ..... 14 JULY 1979

Sponsor ..... Mrs. Roy C. Smith, Jr.  
 Great, great-granddaughter  
 of Commodore John Rodgers,  
 the first of the three ship's  
 namesakes.

**STATISTICS**

Length.....563 Feet 4 Inches

Beam ..... 55 Feet

Displacement .... 7,800 Tons

Personnel ..... Officers ..... 19  
 CPO's..... 14  
 Enlisted ..... 235

Armament ..... 2 five inch/54 cal.  
 MK 45 gun mounts  
 MK 112 ASROC launcher  
 2 MK 32 Torpedo launchers

# OC DIVISION



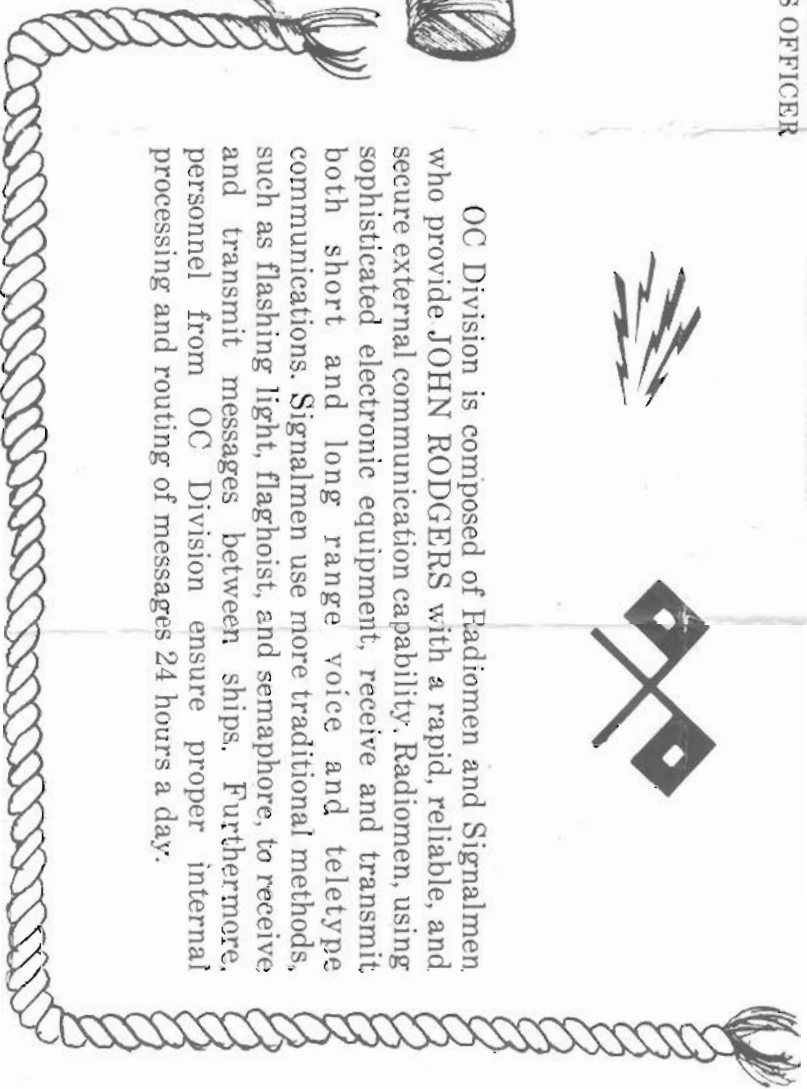
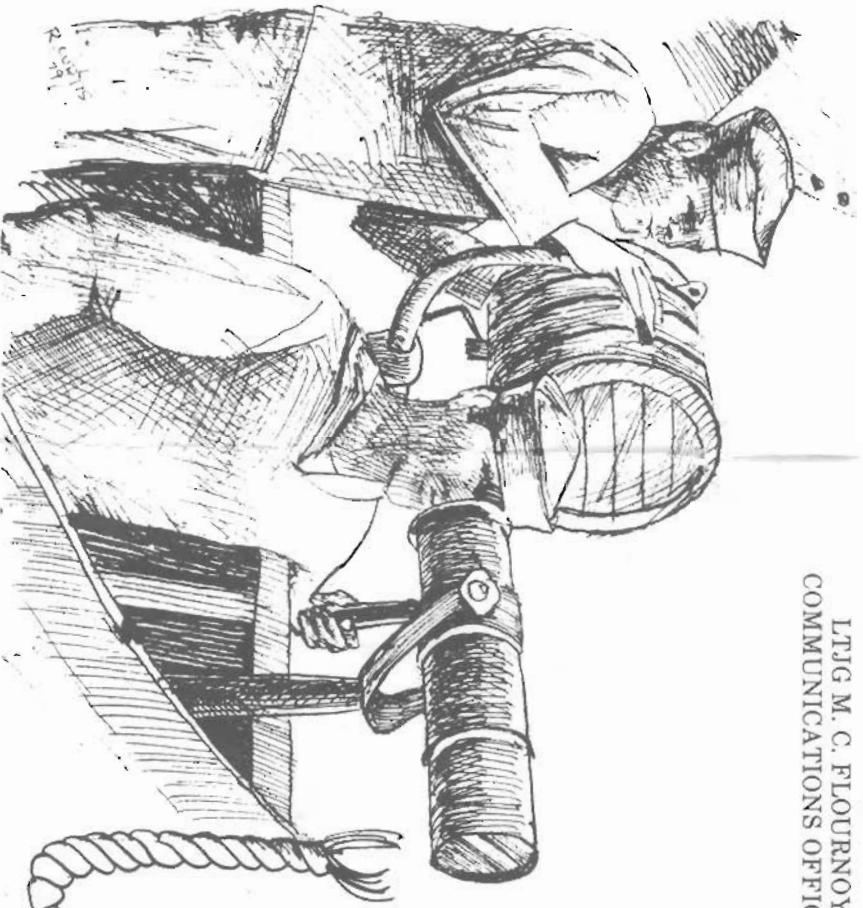
LTJG M. C. FLOURNOY  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



RMC N. W. MILLER



OC Division is composed of Radiomen and Signalmen who provide JOHN RODGERS with a rapid, reliable, and secure external communication capability. Radiomen, using sophisticated electronic equipment, receive and transmit both short and long range voice and teletype communications. Signalmen use more traditional methods, such as flashing light, flaghoist, and semaphore, to receive and transmit messages between ships. Furthermore, personnel from OC Division ensure proper internal processing and routing of messages 24 hours a day.





Caribbean Operation, Selective Refresher Training, Post Shakedown/Restricted Availability

## 28. DUTIES ASSIGNED (Continued)

Treasurer, Cryptologic Security Officer, OOD (Inport), CICWO, JOOD (U/W)

86. COMMENTS. Particularly comment upon the officer's overall leadership ability, personal traits not listed on the reverse side, and estimated or actual performance in combat. Include comments pertaining to unique skills and distinctions that may be important to career development and future assignment. A mark in boxes with an asterisk (\*) indicates adversely and supporting comments are required.

LTJG Flournoy's overall performance in JOHN RODGERS has been excellent. As Communications Officer he has proven himself to be a capable manager of allotted assets. He places strong emphasis on participation in inport drills and exercises which has brought special comment from exercise observers. Additionally, he monitored the installation of new equipment in the Communications spaces during PSA/RAV and ensured that all discovered discrepancies were corrected. LTJG Flournoy's knowledge of communications procedures and management was also well documented by the receipt of a letter of commendation from USS PIEDMONT (AD-17), where as Communications Officer he was instrumental in the winning of the Communications "C".

As CMS Custodian, LTJG Flournoy has been exceptionally thorough in maintaining the ship's account. During the modified Command Inspection, he was cited for having no discrepancies in his account along with outstanding CMS procedures. He consistently pays meticulous attention to detail in CMS matters, taking the initiative to ensure sufficient materials and current publications are always on board.

LTJG Flournoy is a strong supporter of the Navy's Equal Opportunity programs. During the recent Caribbean "Good Will" port visits, he easily made friends with the local people giving an excellent impression of the U.S. Navy.

CDR M. H. LOY, USN  
USS JOHN RODGERS (DD-983)  
PPO Miami, FL 34092

31 July 1980