

Introducing - - -

## THE ENGINEER OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander C. R. Cundiff was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1909. Completing preliminary schooling in Kentucky, he entered the Naval Academy from the Blue Grass State in the Class of 1933. Further engineering study was pursued at Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities.

Lieutenant Commander Cundiff was one of the first Naval Reserve officers to volunteer for active duty in 1939 and his first tour of duty was on the U. S. S. YORKTOWN (CV-5). He served as "B" Division officer on this carrier until she was sunk at Midway on 7 June, 1942. For his work in attempting to salvage the YORKTOWN he received a letter of commendation from Admiral Nimitz.

His next assignment was to the U. S. S. CO-PAGEE (CVE-12) as Engineer Officer, where he served until orders came to the U. S. S. BENNINGTON. Lieutenant Commander Cundiff was the first officer to receive orders and to report to the BENNINGTON for fitting out in March, 1944.

He holds an unlimited Merchant Marine Chief Engineer's license and is a full member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

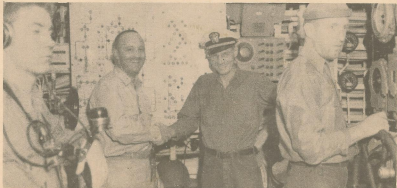
For relaxation on the BENNINGTON, when his many duties will permit, Lieutenant Commander Cundiff can usually be found, chisel in hand, amid wood chippings, for he is a devotee of the ancient art of wood-carving and whittling. In the photo to the right can be seen a finished figure in maple, and one in process being done in teak-wood. Pieces of other rare woods found in many different ports are stowed in a special bin in his room.

There's a saying in the Engineering Department that when the ship hits port and the shore beckons, the "Chief," unlike his brother officers, "runs for the nearest sawmill."



LT. COMDR. C. R. CUNDIFF

### ENGINEERS MARK TWENTY THOUSANDTH MILE



Lt. (jg) J. C. Brusk, Engineer Duty Officer, congratulated by Engineer Officer on the recent completion by the BENNINGTON of 20,000 miles.

Turning an estimated nine million times, the Engineers have kept the ship's giant screws operating efficiently and without failure.