

U. S. S. WILLIAM M. WOOD

DD 715

EUROPEAN CRUISE

1952





IN MEMORIAM
THE CREW OF THE
USS WILLIAM M. WOOD
DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO
SEAMAN WILLIAM E. L'HEUREUX
LOST AT SEA
JANUARY 10, 1952.
MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

G. J. BENTON JR.

FOREWORD

This is the story of the United States Ship William M. Wood, DD 715. The setting is our European Cruise from January 9th, to May 20, 1952. It is the story of an American fighting ship and its crew; the story of the men who live and work on board, the men who issue orders and the men who carry them out, the men who swab the decks and the men who dirty them again. It is the story of the men who cook the chow and the men who gripe about it, the men who plot the stars and the man who has the conn. It is the story of an American ship at sea and in Foreign Ports, the story of the U.S.S. William M. Wood.

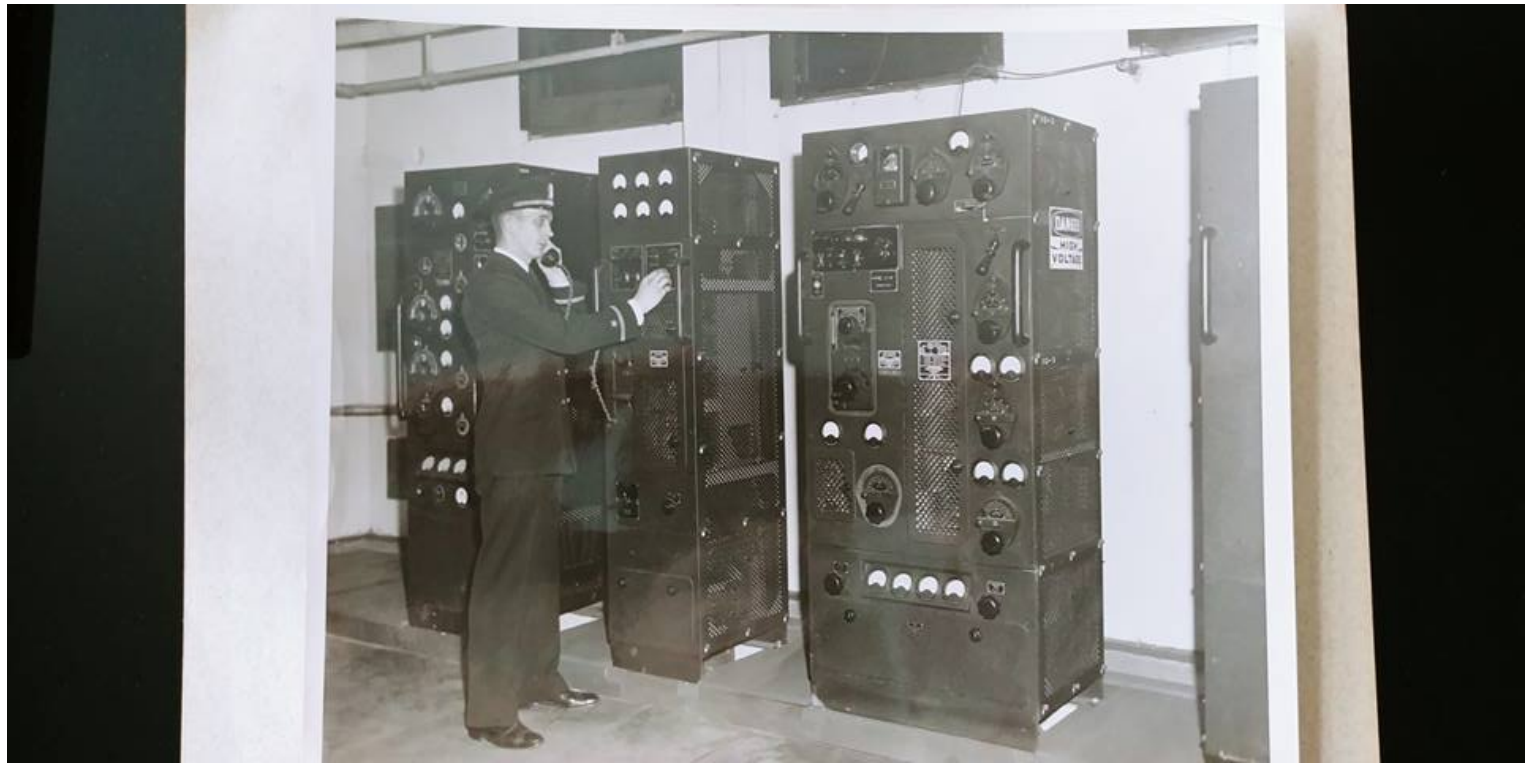
THE OFFICERS OF THE U. S. S. WILLIAM M. WOOD



L. HOLTE



LT. J. H. SCOTT



OUR STORY

The new destroyer sailed proudly down New York harbor, past the Statue of Liberty and out to the open sea. She headed south for a shake-down cruise around the Caribbean Sea that lasted for six months. Then the Wood was assigned to the Pacific Fleet, and she steamed through the locks of the Panama Canal heading for San Diego and sunny California. After a few more months of training at Pearl Harbor, the Wood set sail in October 1945 for Chinese duty and the Korean Patrol. During this tour the Ship was based at Tsingtao, China.

In February, 1947, the Wood returned to San Diego and later underwent a three months overhaul at the Mare Island Shipyard. The Ship then joined up with Task Force 38 and departed on an interesting tour to Sydney, Australia, Hongkong, Shanghai, Tsingtao and Yokosuka, Japan. At the completion of this tour the Wood was awarded the Navy «E» for Battle Efficiency.

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On her return to California, the Wood was transferred from the Pacific to the Atlantic Fleet. The ship departed San Diego and on October 21, 1949, steamed into her new home port, Newport, Rhode Island.

After a tour of duty as DesLant School Ship, the Wood participated in several amphibious and anti-submarine exercises. In July 1950 she received sudden orders to steam to Iceland. This occurred in the middle of the night and we were ordered to fuel and transfer Midshipmen to the U.S.S. Saipan, which we were operating with off the Southern coast of Bermuda. The Wood made the long trip to Iceland in 10 days, stopping at Argentia, New Foundland and, and Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

After her return to Newport in August, the Wood joined the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. After an interesting tour in this historic sea including visits to Sardinia; Augusta, Sicily; Toulon, France; and Gibraltar, the Wood returned to Newport. In March, 1951, the Wood proceeded to Pensacola, Florida, for a month's duty as plane guard for the U.S.S. Monterey, then being used as a training unit to qualify pilots for carrier landings.

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In May the Wood participated in Fleet Manoeuvre along the Atlantic Coast and then proceeded to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for an overhaul. She next operated out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for a period of six weeks, and then returned to Newport to fit out for this European Cruise which commenced on January 9, 1952.