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Radar Station Ship Is Given Title Guardian

First of Type, Vessel To Be Commissioned On Tuesday

The first Navy ocean radar station ship—the YAGR-1—was officially named yesterday. Navy Secretary Charles S. Thomas formally designated her the Guardian.

In announcing the names of the four new type vessels, Thomas cited them as "an essential factor in our national defense." The Guardian is the first Liberty ship to be converted as a radar station.

A sister ship to the Guardian, the YAGR-3, currently is being converted at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth. She has been named the Skywatch. The other two radar-type vessels are being converted at the Charleston, S. C., Naval Shipyard. They are the Lookout (YAGR-2) and the Searcher (YAGR-4).

The Guardian is scheduled for commissioning at the Portsmouth yard in special ceremonies Tuesday. Completion of all four radar vessels is expected by May 1, a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

In a letter to the commanding officer of the Guardian, Lt. Robert E. Euliss, USN, Secretary Thomas emphasized the vital importance of the ship's role in national defense.

"The great import of your task and mission should be a challenge to you and the officers and men under your command, to establish and continue in the USF YAGR-1 these high standards and traditions of our Navy."

Euliss, who will officially assume command of the Guardian Tuesday, is a veteran of 25 years' Navy service. He entered the Navy in 1930 and worked his way to the top enlisted grade—chief petty officer quartermaster.

Early in 1943 he was appointed to the rank of warrant officer. Later that same year he was commissioned an ensign.

In 1944 he received a spot promotion to lieutenant and was assigned as commander of the LST-876. He commanded the ship during the Philippines and Okinawa campaigns.

He returned to East Coast duty

'Guardian' Skipper



Lt. Robert E. Euliss, USN

In 1947 and two years later took command of the LST-519. In 1952 he reported for duty with Fifth Naval District headquarters and was assigned to the office of the reserve coordinator. He recently was selected for the rank of lieutenant commander.

Euliss and his wife, Mary, live at 316 Bursleigh Avenue. They have one son, Robert, Jr.

YAGRGRAM'S

Sea Stories

Do you have any information or any sea stories that you think others might enjoy reading about? If you do, pass them along.

The sea stories that have been published in past YAGRGRAMS were enjoyed by many. I always get favorable remarks about them.



Ed McGrath (AGR-7, 1957-1962)

As you know the picket ships were noted for their sophisticated radar and communications equipment. Well we were having an exercise with the Air Force from McChord AFB out of Seattle, and after some time the aircraft asked our ship if we had him yet on the scope. We told him "no". After a few seconds went by, he asked again if we had him on our scope and our CIC told him "no". Our CIC asked him where he was and he said he was directly over the ship. So our equipment was not as great as we were told.

We were surprised one early morning by having a sailboat on our starboard beam just sitting there. She never showed up on our radar and the bridge watch never reported seeing the sailboat all night. After sunrise the CO went to the side of the ship and asked the civilians on the sailboat what they wanted. They asked if we could spare them some napkins. The CO said "yes" and gave them the napkins. They then sailed off into the sea.

Joe Budniak (AGR-2, 1962-64)

I looked up from writing my reports yesterday to glance at the TV. Low and behold there appeared to be an AGR on the screen. It didn't allow me to catch a long look, but I believe it was the Searcher (AGR-4). It was at the beginning of a science fiction movie called "The Deadly Mantis" from 1957. The movie stressed the role of Norad, Pinetree Line, the DEW Line, Texas Towers along with DER's and the YAGR's in safeguarding the continent from nuclear attack.

It's nice to know we stood tall and performed to our optimum best in the face of a possible attack from the Reds, but failed to stop some 80' flying bug from attacking our Eastern shores.