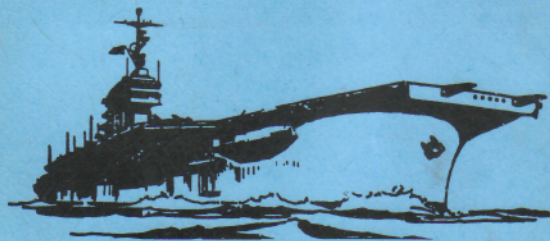
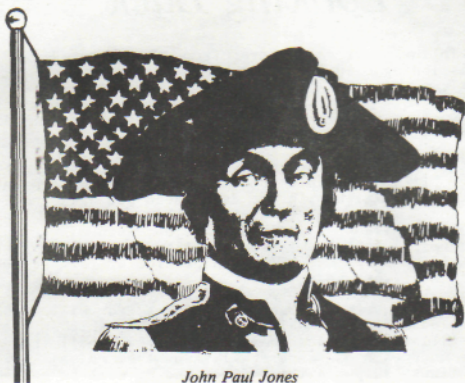


25th
Anniversary



USS Ranger CV-61



John Paul Jones

In 1777, the launching of an American Continental frigate christened Ranger, set into motion a series of events that would, today, astound the crew and commander of the Revolutionary War-era vessel.

Today, over 200 years later, our mighty warship dwarfs her namesake in size and power, but matches, without a doubt, the sense of pride and dedication in the knowledge that she has and continues to serve her nation to the utmost of her abilities.

Therefore, on this, our Ranger's 25th anniversary, it is only fitting that the man who began the great tradition of Ranger speak in her behalf. Our featured speaker for today's program is Capt. John Paul Jones of the Continental Navy.

RANGER



HISTORY

In 1776, the Continental Congress set forth a declaration that, in its summation, stated the desire of its members and their constituents to become a free nation.

Our country's fore-fathers, however, were well aware that such freedom would only be won after a fierce war for independence. They created forces they hoped would be capable of securing for the new-born nation the independence she longed for. Those forces included the Continental Navy and, joining the fleet in the autumn of 1777, a ship called Ranger.

This 18-gun Continental frigate, named in honor of the Portsmouth, N.H., militia Roger's Rangers, was to play a leading role in the development of the new nation. Weighing in at 308 tons, she carried aboard her 140 crewmen and the pride of the American fleet, commanding officer Captain John Paul Jones.

Under his command, Ranger sailed for France on her maiden voyage. In 1778, while bearing the new nation's colors, she was the first American vessel to receive a salute from a foreign power, on Valentine's Day from a French flotilla.

In the years that followed, Ranger triumphed many times over British forces. The men-of-war HMS Drake, carrying 20 guns and HMS Holderness sporting 22, met their fates under the onslaught of Ranger's 18 guns along the Atlantic Coast.

But the Ranger of John Paul Jones' day was only the first in a series of vessels whose crew dedicated themselves to living up to the legacy left by her.

The second Ranger, an armed schooner, served a more modest purpose than Jones'. She was

used as a lookout vessel in Chesapeake Bay during the war of 1812.

The third Ranger, a brigantine of 14 guns, served also during the War of 1812 with Cmdr. Isaac Chauncey's squadron.

The fourth Ranger was of a new design whose iron hull and steam-powered engines heralded the Navy's emergence into the 20th century. This Ranger was, perhaps, the first to truly show America's resolve at protecting her national interests worldwide. She was assigned to the Asiatic fleet, leaving New York May 21, 1871 to eventually take up her position on the Asiatic station, ready to defend American interests and policy in the Far East.

The fifth Ranger protected America's interests much closer to home. She was a coastal minesweeper in the Sixth Naval District, serving during World War I.

The sixth Ranger could truly be called the father of our modern 'Gray Lady' for she was the first ship of the Navy to be designed and built from the keel up as an aircraft carrier. This recent ancestor of our Ranger saw her share of action following her commissioning June 4, 1934. She was the only large carrier in the Atlantic Fleet when she led a task force comprised of herself and four Sangamon class escort carriers towards German-dominated French Morocco for an amphibious invasion on November 8, 1942. In the darkness of the early dawn, she launched her aircraft against the forces stationed at Rabat and the Rabat and Rabat-Sale airdomes, destroying seven planes and 14 bombers without the loss of a single Ranger aircraft. The carrier launched

(Ranger history continued)

496 combat sorties in the three-day operation.

Following her victories there, Ranger sailed for Norwegian waters to attack German shipping in the area. Reaching her launch positions off Vestford undetected, she launched 20 dauntless dive bombers and an escort of eight Wildcat fighters. They severely damaged a 10,000-ton tanker and a small troop transport. All in all, during her tour in those embattled waters, Ranger sank more than 40,000 tons of German shipping.

For her courage and daring, Ranger received two battle stars during her World War II service.

And the pages of history turn towards the most recent Ranger to serve the interests of our nation. At the time of her commissioning, August 10, 1957, Ranger was the most modern warship in the world. At 80,000 tons and a length of 1,070 feet in length, she was certainly the most impressive ship to sail from her birthplace of Newport News Ship building and Drydock Company in Newport News, Va.

After arriving at her first homeport of Naval Air Station Alameda, Ca., Ranger made four cruises to the Western Pacific in the five years that followed.

Visiting many exotic lands as an ambassador of goodwill, Ranger played host to a wide variety of dignitaries and diplomats from various nations. In times of war, she proved the strength and power at her command was more than enough to protect America's vital world interests.

It was on her fifth cruise beginning August 5, 1964 that Ranger was called upon to prove through combat our nation's determination to defend freedom. It was then that President Johnson directed our naval forces to strike at bases used by the North Vietnamese naval crafts that launched unprovoked attacks against the U.S. Navy ships Maddox (DD-731) and Turner Joy (DD-951).

During the decades that followed, Ranger completed seven combat deployments to Southeast Asia. For her service, Ranger earned 13 battle stars during the Vietnam War.

On June 15, 1975, Ranger shifted homeports to San Diego. After a brief familiarization period, she deployed once again to the Western Pacific on January 30, 1976. Even though this was not a wartime cruise, the second since the end of Vietnam, Ranger carried the same mission: to maintain a balance of power and to keep the shipping lanes open for all nations.

On February 9, 1977, Ranger left for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash., for a one-year extensive overhaul period. This was her first major overhaul since 1971. After extensive renovation, Ranger returned to San Diego on March 25, 1978, prepared to continue her honorable service to her nation.

On February 21, 1979, Ranger departed San Diego for a 14th deployment, returning seven months later. This was her last cruise with F-4 jets.

On her 15th cruise, which began on September 10, 1980, Ranger spent more than 130 days in the Indian Ocean and was on station in the Persian Gulf for the release of the 52 American hostages held in Iran.

Currently, Ranger is serving her 16th cruise in the often troubled region of the Indian Ocean. And though, now, Ranger serves as a symbol of the reach and power of our country, she stands prepared to continue the legacy of John Paul Jones - to fight for our nation wherever the need arises, to protect her national interests and maintain the freedom of the seas with all the power, courage and determination that is at her command.

THE LEGACY ENDURES



Ranger Improves With Age

As incomprehensible as the USS Ranger (CV-61) would be to the crewmembers of the Continental ship that originally bore the name, perhaps this massive aircraft carrier's eventual successor will be evidence of an even more advanced technology. And in the final equation, Ranger may have done no more than what was expected of her.

However, Ranger is far from adding another star to her bold insignia's seven predecessors. Instead, symbolically, she begins her second quarter-century steaming a vast ocean, proclaiming her strength, in the performance of her mission. Since her commissioning, 25 years ago today, in peace and in battle, Ranger has become an 80,000-ton ideal; peace and prosperity through strength. Born of the strength of a nation, she proclaims her right to freedom throughout the oceans of the world.

On her silver anniversary Ranger joins only four other aircraft carriers that have achieved this milestone. In this, as a United States ship, she has become a source of inspiration. Through the



dedication and spirit of the officers and men who have served on her, she has blazed her wake in history, and kept her name proud.

Now, the Top Gun of the Pacific Fleet presses on, steaming into a new age. And perhaps Ranger's lifespan will prove somewhat insignificant in the ultimate balance. But she is 25 years young and constantly improving to conquer the everchanging challenges of the modern Navy. As Capt. John Paul Jones might have said--she has only begun to fight--for her rightful place in history.



25 Years of Pride In Profile



RANGER HONOR ROLL

Captain Charles C. Booth II	10 Aug 1957	-	5 MAR 1958
Captain Paul D. Buie	5 MAR 1958	-	23 MAY 1959
Captain Noel A.M. Gaylor	23 MAY 1959	-	4 JUN 1960
Captain Donald Gay, Jr.	4 JUN 1960	-	5 MAY 1961
Captain William N. Leonard	5 MAY 1961	-	7 MAY 1962
Captain George C. Duncan	7 MAY 1962	-	20 MAY 1963
Captain William E. Lemos	20 MAY 1963	-	28 MAY 1964
Captain Alton B. Grimes	28 MAY 1964	-	10 MAY 1965
Captain Leo B. McCuddin	10 MAY 1965	-	7 JUN 1965
Captain William M. Harnish	7 JUN 1965	-	20 OCT 1966
Captain William E. Donnelly, Jr.	20 OCT 1966	-	27 MAR 1968
Captain William H. Livingston	27 MAR 1968	-	28 JUN 1969
Captain Joe P. Moorer	28 JUN 1969	-	20 JUN 1970
Captain Joseph L. Coleman	20 JUN 1970	-	3 SEP 1971
Captain Henry P. Glindeman, Jr.	3 SEP 1971	-	21 MAY 1973
Captain Allen E. Hill	21 MAY 1973	-	22 NOV 1974
Captain John L. Nicholson, Jr.	22 NOV 1974	-	17 SEP 1976
Captain Douglas R. McCrimmon	17 SEP 1976	-	17 JUN 1978
Captain Thomas G. Moore	17 JUN 1978	-	22 MAY 1979
Captain Roger E. Box	22 MAY 1979	-	20 OCT 1980
Captain Dan A. Pedersen	20 OCT 1980	-	11 JUN 1982

Captain A. A. Less
 11 JUN 1982
 COMMANDING OFFICER

She has been built, and she
rides under us here today for
great purpose. To protect in
time of war, and to be, wher-
ever she sails, ever an ex-
pression to all, of dignity
and purpose...

Admiral Arthur Radford

