



**CAPTAIN
JOSEPH
JAMES
CLARK**

From Commissioning to 10 February 1944.

Captain Clark, now Rear Admiral, who commissioned the YORKTOWN, will ever be remembered for his tenacity of purpose and the ability to get the job at hand completed.

The day previous to the commissioning ceremonies, he advised the assembled officers that the ship would reach the combat zone in record time and in complete combat readiness. Consequently, any officer who remained with her could grade his fitness report a perfect 4.0, as nothing less would be tolerated. Like the crack of the starting gun for a race, his words set in motion a work schedule that was forever trying to crowd two days into one. The relentless energy he displayed, and eternal vigilance of his officers' work never permitted a slight let down. Such a system produced records for time spent in shakedown, and in readiness for the com-

bat zone, so that the character of the ship was molded early in her career.

His proud boast that in his veins flowed the blood of a Cherokee Indian added color to his quest for the scalp of Tojo.

All during the cruise, the personal feelings of officers were stored away, as he was a believer in direct and prompt action. Quick to criticize—he was equally quick to praise. If the method employed was unauthorized, but produced the desired results, he could always be counted upon to stand behind a man's decision.

Perhaps best of all will he be remembered by the pilots who flew from her deck as a man who would go to any length to effect the rescue of a pilot down at sea. If ever his efforts failed, it was because the means at hand were not sufficient, rather than any lack in their application.

His willingness to volunteer gave the ship many added days of operation with other air groups in training, as well as extensive drill in gunnery. Consequently, it can be truthfully said that the ship was never without a job to do.

As a ship handler, he left nothing to be desired, and so trained his officers of the deck that their good work added much to the successful operation of the ship in the hard days of combat later experienced.

Following the subjection of Kwajalein, he departed the ship to be promoted to Rear Admiral. That he left a ship well trained for the task ahead, could never be challenged.



**CAPTAIN
RALPH
EDWARD
JENNINGS**

From 10 February 1944 to 29 September 1944

Upon taking command of the YORKTOWN on her first raid against Truk, Captain, now Rear Admiral Jennings was found to be a man of quiet efficiency who successfully steered the ship through succeeding engagements culminating in the occupation of Saipan and Guam. It was under his command on the second attack against Truk that the ship established its second largest number of sorties and delivered the largest tonnage of bombs upon a target for one day's operations.

He possessed the ability to tolerate an error on the part of an officer or man and so counsel with