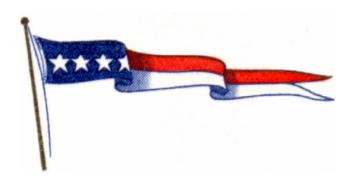
THE COMMISSIONING OF THE U.S.S. GEARING

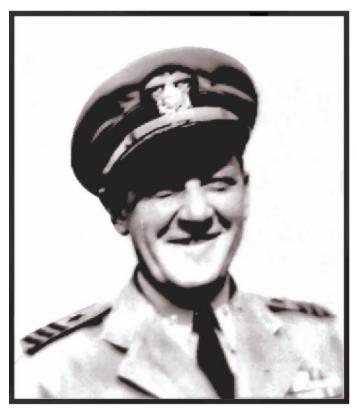
May 3, 1945

The commissioning ceremony signifies the acceptance for service and the entry of a ship into the active fleet of the United States Navy. The USS Gearing was commissioned Thursday May 3, 1945 at Brooklyn Navy Yard. Commandant of the New York Naval Yard, Rear Admiral F. D. Daubin, USN, at 12:00 hours, directed by order of the Chief of Naval Operations that USS Gearing DD-710 be placed in full commission in the United States Navy. The National Ensign was hoisted and saluted. The Commissioning Pennant and the Union Jack were hoisted at the mainmast and jack staff respectively, while the band of the U,S. Naval yard played the National Anthem. At the moment of the braking of the commissioning pennant, the USS Gearing became a proud ship of the Line. At 1205 hours Commander Thomas Henry Copeman USN assumed command and together with the officers and crew accepted the duties and responsibilities of making and keeping her ready for service, be it at war or peace. Commander Copeman directed Lieutenant Robert Ward Hayler the executive officer to set the watch. At 12:06 the watch was set, Lieutenant T. I. Storrs taking the first watch as officer-of-the-deck. Gearing was assigned to 135th Division, Squadron 68.



THE COMMISSIONING PENNANT

The origin of the commissioning pennant like many of our traditions can be traced to the British Navy. In the 17th century when the Dutch were at war with the British, the Dutch Admiral Tromp hoisted a broom at the ship's masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. In response, the English Admiral William Black hoisted a horsewhip indicate his intention to Subdue the Dutch. The English were victorious and ever since the narrow "coach whip" pennant has been adopted by all Nations as the distinctive mark of a ship of war.



Commander Thomas Henry Copeman

COMMANDER THOMAS HENRY COPEMAN, USN: Was born May 2, 1907 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy with the class of 1931. He served on various ships of the U.S. Navy, and was executive officer og the U.S.S. Greer in 1940, when she became the first U.S. Navy ship to be attacked by German U-Boats. She evaded two torpedoes and then counter attacked, dropping 19 depth charges. This incident, in September 1941, prompted president Roosevelt to issue his order to "fire on sight" In 1942, LCDR Copeman took command of the U.S.S Greer. In 1943 he commissioned and commanded the new Destroyer U.S.S. Brown, and on May 3, 1945 he commissioned and commanded the first of a new class of long hull Destroyer, the U.S.S. Gearing DD-710. Commander Copeman commanded the attack cargo ship U.S.S. Ogelethorpe in the Korean Theater of operations. From 1955 to 1956 he was chief staff officer, service force, sixth fleet, his final active duty was that of deputy chief of staff of the 11th Naval district, He retired in July 1960 as Captain and made his home in Del Mar, California. His decorations included the Silver Star with combat V and the commendation medal with V and Star. Captain Copeman died on December 21, 1982 while hospitalized in San Diego, California.



Lieutenant Robert Ward Hayler Jr. First executive officer

ROBERT WARD HAYLER JR: Was born November 29, 1918 in Delaware County, Muncie, Indiana, son of Vice Admiral Robert Ward Hayler Sr. USN retired and Mrs. Nola Birch Hayler. He entered The Unite States Naval Academy, Annapolis Maryland on appointment from his native state in 1937. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on February 7, 1941. Following Graduation in 1941 he served as gunnery officer and executive officer of the USS Fanning (DD-385). While he was on board that destroyer, she participated in Marshall, Gilbert and Philippine Island campaigns: in action at Iwo Jima and was a unit of the task force which launched General Doolittle's Tokyo Raid. For meritorious service during the bombardment of Marus, Iwo Jima and Chichi Jima, operations against enemy Japanese forces at Formosa and the battle for Levte Gulf from October, 1944 to January 5, 1945 he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and combat "V." The citation further states in part. He reported in March 1945 for fitting out duty of the USS Gearing DD-710 at the Federal shipbuilding and Dry dock Company New Port, New Jersey and served on that destroyer as Executive Officer from her commissioning, May 3, 1945 until February 1946. The next month he assumed command of the USS Harmon (DD-678). Assigned in April 1948 to the Bureau of Naval personnel and the Deputy Chief of Navy Department,

Washington, D.C. he had duty in the Officer Distribution Section and was Aide to the Chief of Naval Personnel and the Deputy Chief on Navel Operations (Personnel). As such, he also served as Naval Aide at the White House. He retired July 1, 1970. He died December 18, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENT: This morning at 5:00 am Dec 18, 2004, Bob Hayler passed away. He died peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his wife, Barbara, and his two children, Robert & Nicole. There will be a small memorial ceremony within the next several days. As per his wishes, there will be a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at a date yet to be determined.

I have opened his e-mail address book to generate this announcement, and I'm sure that not all of his classmates, shipmates, tennis playing pals, and friends are covered here.

Robert and Nicole Hayler