

USS Ticonderoga

CV-14 & CVA-14

The attack aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga is the tenth Essex class carrier built for the United States Navy. She is nicknamed the "Big T", TICO, and TI, and is named for the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga which was fought during the Revolutionary War. TICO is the fourth naval vessel to bear this name. Her keel was laid February 1, 1943 and she was commissioned May 8, 1944.

TICO saw action in several naval battles in World War II as part of Task Force 38. She struck against Japanese defenses in the Carolines, Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa and the Japanese mainland.

Off the coast of Taiwan on January 21, 1945, a suicide plane came out of the sun and clouds, attacking without warning. This kamikaze crashed through the flight deck and its bomb exploded above the hangar deck.

Ticonderoga appeared an easy target with flame and smoke rising hundreds of feet in the air. Other suicide planes attacked in succession. Three were downed by the fighting carrier's gunners. Despite their valiant defense a second kamikaze, although struck many times in the air, struck the carrier from the starboard side near the island structure. Its bomb exploded next to the island structure starting severe fires and causing many casualties.

In a little more than two hours, all the fires were under control and extinguished. TICO was

brought safely to Ulithi on 24 January 1945.

Ticonderoga had a total of 345 casualties of which 12 officers and 131 men were killed or missing. Thirty-two officers and 170 men were injured.

After emergency repairs she received further refitting at Bremerton, Washington. Repairs were made rapidly and TICO was again on the firing line in May 1945. She participated in the final assaults against the Japanese Empire.

In March 1946, she was placed in the Bremerton group of Inactive Reserve. Brought out of reserve in 1952, Ticonderoga was taken around Cape Horn to the New York Naval Shipyard. After exercises in the Mediterranean, TICO again went into the shipyards, this time in Norfolk, Virginia. A new angled flight deck was added to her design and she was redesignated a CVA, or attack carrier of the Oriskany Class. In April 1957 she returned to the Pacific Coast.

Ticonderoga completed her fifth deployment to the Western Pacific as part of the U. S. Seventh Fleet on July 15, 1963.

While operating in the Pacific Ticonderoga has won many commendations and awards. Foremost of these is the Navy's highest peacetime award, the Battle Efficiency "E". This honor TICO has won three years in a row in competition with all of the attack carriers in the Pacific.

