

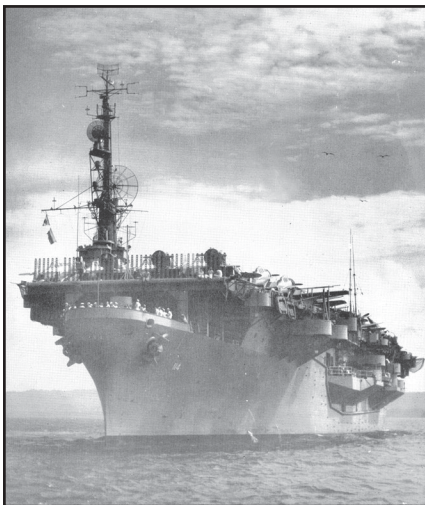


Association of Naval Aviation  
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**NEWSLETTER**

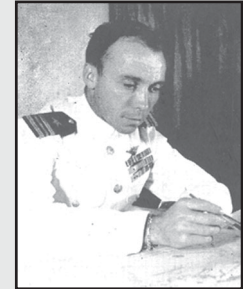
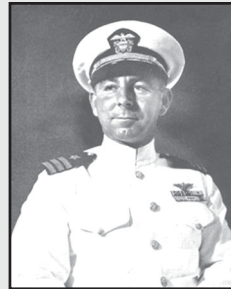
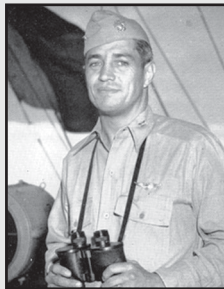
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## **AROUND THE WORLD IN 100 DAYS**

The USS Rendova (CVE-114) delivered a deckload of Air Force AT-6s to Turkey in 1948 -- and kept on going!



The USS Rendova (CVE-114) was named after the landing at Rendova Island on June 30, 1943 that marked the onset of the American attack on the Solomon Islands. The ship was launched on December 28, 1944 and commissioned on October 22, 1945



Captain T. R. Frederick, Commander T. F. Connolly,  
Lieutenant Comander M. F. Weisner

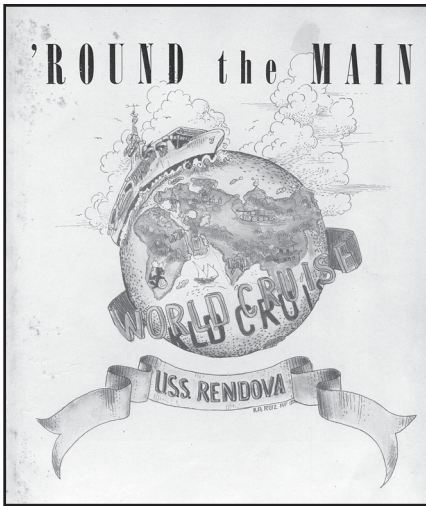
*When the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) visited Manama, Bahrain in May of this year it was only the second American aircraft carrier to visit the Middle Eastern country. The previous visitor was the USS Rendova (CVE-114) sixty-one years, almost to the day, earlier*

*The Escort Carrier had delivered a deckload of Air Force AT-6s to Turkey, then returned to San Diego by heading east.*

*"That was a First Class World*

*Cruise," recalls member Earl Dickson, "and never to be forgotten. Maurice Weisner was our Navigator and Tom Connolly the Executive Officer."*

Weisner became a 4-Star Admiral and was CINCPAC from 1976 to 1979. Tom Connolly was rumored to have lost his chance at a fourth star because of his frank assessment of the F-111B in hearings headed up by John Stennis. The F-14, which evolved from the F-111 experiment, bears his name.



The Rendova departed NAS San Diego at 0633 on 23 March, arriving at NAS Alameda the following afternoon. After loading the AT-6s onto the flight deck, the ship stood out of San Francisco Bay on April Fool's Day, reaching Balboa, Panama Cana Zone, on 9 April.

In Panama City "we received our initial lesson in bargaining and in being duped by taxi drivers," noted the Rendova Cruise Book. 11 April was spent passing through the canal.



Transitting the canal

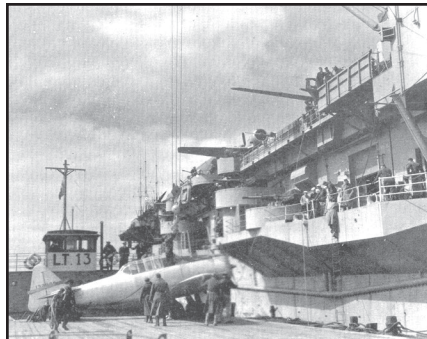
The ship departed Colon Harbor, Panama Canal Zone at 1545 hours, arriving at Gibraltar on the morning of 23 April.



Entering Gibraltar. Photo taken over F8Fs on the flight deck of the USS Valley Forge (CV-45)

"Although our stay at the Rock was brief," the cruise book said, "we received our first taste of the Limey idea of 'Lend-Lease' -- we converted our shekels into Gibraltar pounds at his Majesty's most reputable bank and then found the teller's window bars closed in our faces as we attempted to reconvert that which we had not already been relieved of."

Underway at 1600 hours, Rendova arrived at Yesilkov, Turkey late in the day on 28 April. The following day was spent off-loading aircraft.



Off-loading aircraft

On 1 May the ship departed Yesilkove and arrived in Istanbul, remaining for two days. Port Said, Egypt was the next stop, the carrier arriving on 6 May and departed the next day, entering the Suez Canal.

From 11 to 13 May the ship visited the Aden Protectorate. Noted the cruise book, "We will always be indebted to the R.A.F., who put the facilities of their pool, beach, and beer garden at our disposal. Never has the combination seemed more refreshing."



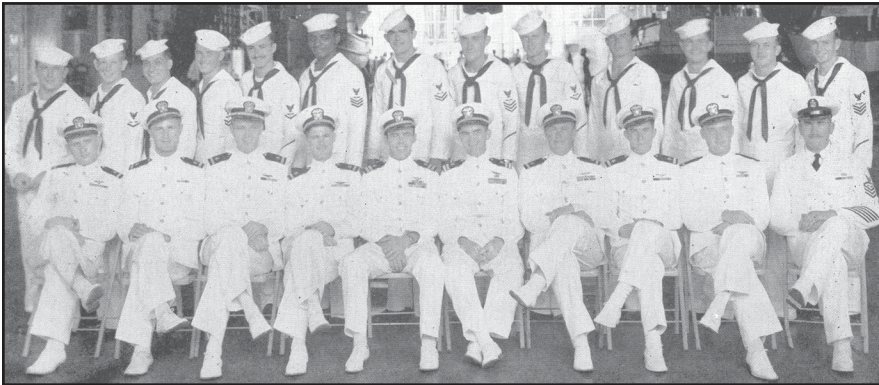
(Above) At left, Captain Frederick explains the workings of the ship to His Highness, Shaikh Sir Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifah. (Below) The Royal Feast put on by the Shaikh on 20 May. "I was there," recalls Earl Dickson, "and had a great seat."







(Above) USS Rendova (CVE-114) moored to the BAPCO pier in Bahrain May 19, 1948. "I think that's my 'Turkey' on the bow," says Earl Dickson, "or maybe Harry Ettinger's".  
 (Below) USS Rendova Special Air Detachment. Members Earl Dickson and Harry Ettinger are 3rd and 2nd from right, 1st row.

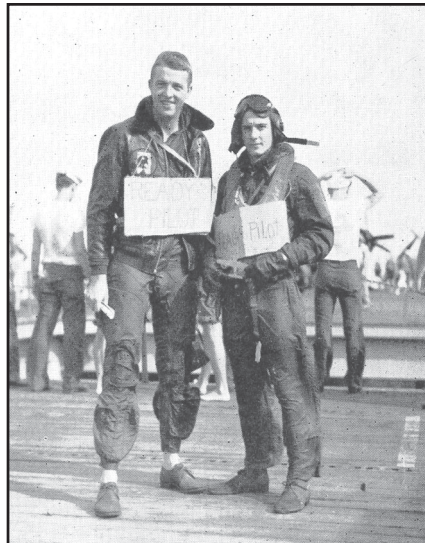


Leaving Aden early on 13 May, the Rendova arrived at Sitrah Anchorage, Bahrein Island on the 19th where it remained until departing on the 21st.

Colombo, Ceylon was the next stop, the ship visiting from 28 May until the 31st.

The Crossing of the Equator occurred on 4 June, with the ship arriving in Manila on the 8th. Two days later Rendova put to sea, arriving at NOB Guam for a one-day stay on the 14th.

The following day the ship reached Saipan. Following a swimming party for the crew, the carrier departed later in the day,

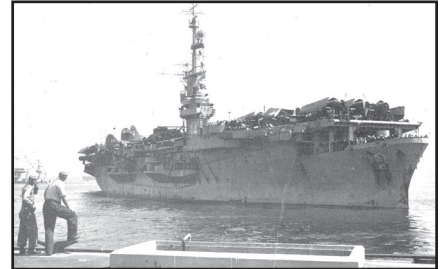


Pollywogs Vermilya and Ettinger

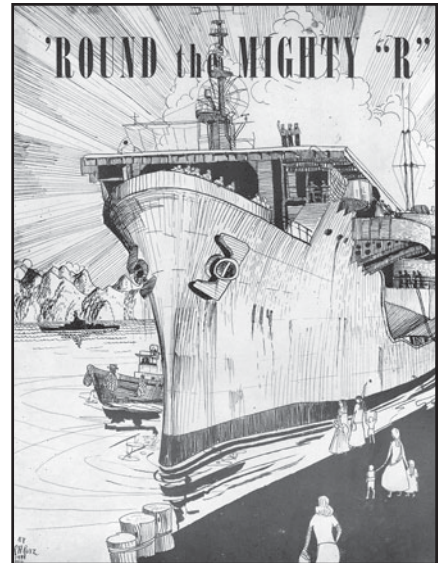
arriving at Pearl Harbor at 0800 on 23 June.

The ship left after a stay of two days, reaching NAS North Island at 1030 hours, on 1 July.

Liberty was declared at 1031.



Back at North Island



Thanks to Member Earl Dickson for the loan of his "USS Rendova World Cruise" book for this story.