



Navy Day October 27, 1945 Cancels
Compiled by Steve Shay (L-10,821) January 2003
USCS Data Sheet #24

October 27, 1945 was the first day that ship names were added to cancels and authorized for use after the end of World War II. Prior to this date, the canceling devices in use stated "U.S. Navy" and were those which were in use during the war. This made it difficult to determine the name of the ship providing the cancellation. The new cancels, which would include the ship name, were issued to the fleet in October 1945 with instructions to mail clerks to place them in use for the first time on October 27, 1945, Navy Day, and the day of a national victory celebration. This list was originally compiled by Ken Hanson from the collection of Dr. Swisher and others. It was published in the March 1973 USCS LOG and has subsequently been added to with lists and research from Chuck French, John Germann, Ken Hanson, Dave Kent, Tom Sullivan, Don Goodwin, Dave Gehringer, Bob Rawlins, James Myerson, Randy Kimes, Lector Orrick, Barry Lussen, Thad Kaczowski, Jim Smith, Frank Hoak III and Steve Shay.

Navy Day 1945 was an opportunity to show the power of the U.S. Navy and to celebrate the end of the war. In many ports, including New York, Boston and San Francisco, Philadelphia, Terminal Island and Tokyo Bay, ships sailed into harbor for review and then were open to the public. In New York, there were nearly 50 ships stretching nearly 7 miles up the Hudson River. President Truman reviewed the fleet from the deck of the destroyer Renshaw. Hundreds of thousands of citizens jammed the rooftops, piers and overlooks to view the fleet. The newest carrier, the Franklin D. Roosevelt was commissioned at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on this day. There was an aerial flyover by Navy Hellcats, Corsairs, Avengers and Helldivers. This in contrast to the display in Longview, Washington on the Columbia River where there were only the destroyers Allen M. Sumner, Moale and the submarine Kraken. It was a time for officers and sailors to proud of what had been accomplished during the war.

A number of cover collectors marked Navy Day with cachets. Walter Czubay, Taze Nicholson, Walter Crosby, Michael Sanders, Ralph Werve, W. M. Grandy and M. Fay Muridge to name a few.

Listed below are cancels types that are known to have been used on October 27, 1945. All cancel types listed are per the Locy System as defined in the Catalog of Naval Postmarks, 5th Edition. Designators in parentheses after cancel types refer to illustrations in the Catalog. The Type 2(n) cancel is the cancel that included the ship name that was put into use on this date.

This is an evolving list; covers will surface that have not been listed. Contact Steve Shay at shaymur@flash.net with additions or corrections.

Ship Cancellations:

Abbot (DD-629) 2(n)	Algorab (AKA 8) 3(A-BBB)	Apollo (AS-25) P (2(n)
Admiral Hugh Rodman (AP-126) 2#	Allen M. Sumner (DD-692) F	with Navy Day/1945 in bars)
Augusta (CA-31) 2(n)	Altair (AD-11) 3(AC-TBB)	Arctic (AF-7) P
Alabama (BB-60) 2(n)	Almaack (AKA-10) 3(A-OBO)	Arkansas (BB-33) 2(n)
Alaska (CB-1) 9efu	Amsterdam (CL-101) 2(n)	Atascosa (AO-66) 2z & 3z
Alchiba (AKA-6) 2z & 3(A-OTO)	Anderson (DD-411) 3(A-BBT)	Atherton (DE-169) P
Alecto (AGP-14) 2(n)	Annapolis (PF-15) SLKb(n+)	Atlanta (CL-104) 2(n)