

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Thank you Roger Wentworth



Two Roger Wentworth cachets donated to DCM4

A hearty thank you to cachet artist Roger Wentworth for his continual support of Decatur Chapter with his donations of his distinctive cachets to the Chapter. His latest donation totaled twelve covers, including a battleship, three fleet weeks and five subs, among others. The covers will be used as door prizes at chapter meetings. Roger, we appreciate your support. If you are at the next chapter meeting, perhaps one of these covers will grace your collection.

Old Salts front and center!



Its time to stump some of the "old salts" out there. Who can tell me what "firing SRBP" refers to? A cover from *USS Augusta CA-31* dated July 25, 1935 has the following in the killer bars of her type 3 cancel "**FIRING SRBP / OFF TSINGTAO**". Is this some sort of special salute or a

training exercise? I have no idea.

Lockport LA and USS

Anchorage christening covers

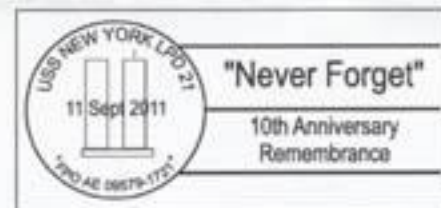
Our chapter covers to the Westwego post office for the *USS Anchorage LPD-23* christening did not fare well. All 100 covers returned with a 2010 cancel on them. Looks like the clerk forgot to look at the year date when he cancelled the envelopes.



The above cover, with a bad year date, will be in the Naval Cover Museum, but not in your collection!

Yours truly also missed it and printed the covers on arrival here. As I was starting to fill orders, the year date finally jumped out at me. All 100 covers have been returned to Lockport for a refund of the lost postage and replacement covers.

9-11 remembrance pictorials planned



With artistic help from Greg Ciesielski and guidance from Phil Schreiber, two pictorials are being planned, one for Staten Island NY and one for the *USS New York LPD-21* for the 10th Anniversary remembrance in New York City of 9-11. The ship has approval for the pictorial and

Staten Island approval is in progress. The pictorials are shown above.

New Chinese carrier?



Above and other photos circulated as "new" PLAN carrier

I have received perhaps a half dozen forwards from different quarters, mostly non-collectors with reference to the "new" Chinese aircraft carrier. The forward has flashy artist renditions of the "new" carrier.



ex-USSR Varyag in Chinese yard being rebuilt

I am wondering if this is part of a publicity campaign by the Peoples Republic of China to gain stature about the current sea trials of the ex-Soviet Union carrier *VARYAG*, purchased by China about ten years ago. Ostensibly, it was purchased to be used as a floating casino. But, the Chinese have been diligently working on the carrier, even adding engines to stripped carrier they purchased. But, it is not the carrier being forwarded around the Internet. China may name the carrier *PLA-N Shi Lang*, but that is speculation for now. It will mainly be a training platform rather than a combat warship, according to a recent Chinese newspaper report, the No. 83 training vessel of the Dalian Navy Academy. This "platform" is the beginning of *PLA-Naval "Air"*. Two Chinese built carriers are planned.