

"OPERATION HIGHJUMP"

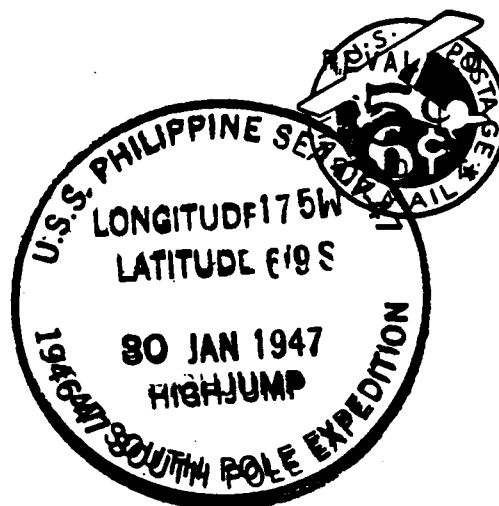
On 3 December 1946, the largest Naval Expeditionary Force ever to depart for the Antarctic regions sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, and San Diego, California. The expedition was under the command of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, U.S.N.

The expedition conducted surveys to determine whether the southern polar regions has any value to national defense and long term United States economy.

It also prospected for all metals, particularly uranium, which at that time was a critical metal used in the Atom Bomb.

A further objective of the expedition was to strengthen this country's claim, never previously formally asserted, to Antarctic areas.

The Commander of the Task Force was Captain Richard H. Cruzen, U.S.N., who had served as Executive Officer of the Byrd Expedition of 1939-1941.

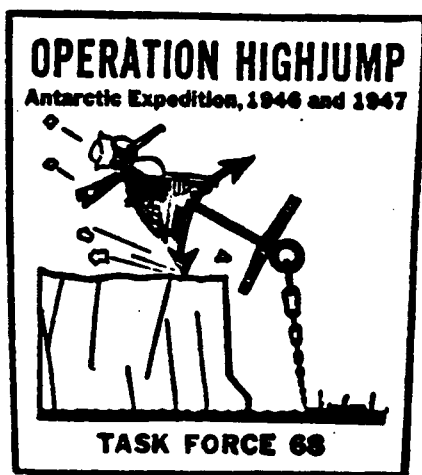


TASK FORCE 68

Mount Olympus (AGC-8) Flagship
Brownson (DD-868)
Burton Island (AG-88)
Cacapon (AO-52)
Canisted (AO-99)
Currituck (AV-7)
Henderson (DD-785)

Merrick (AKA-97)
Northwind (WPG-282)
Philippine Sea (CV-47)
Pine Island (AV-12)
Sennet (SS-408)
Yancey (AKA-93)

The expedition was assigned the code name "Operation Highjump" and many of the ships used a cachet that looked similar to this:



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